www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XX, Issue No. 173 THURSDAY JULY 22, 2010



OPINION METER

This week's poll: On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of

confidence that the Legislature will be able to pass a new budget for FY 2011?

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INSIDE



Scholarship Money

A new local law gives an additional \$43,000 to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Fund

LOCAL...Page 5



China Flood

Floods in China have killed 701 people and left 347 missing.

ASIA...Page 16



Lindsay Lohan began serving jail time Tuesday for a probation viola-

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

The local economy...has continued to follow a trend of decreasing revenues. The prospects for fiscal year 2010 appear similar, with not much recovery in sight.

-Finance Secretary Robert Schrack

CNMI deficit up at \$300.8M in '09

» Total revenue: \$230.2 million

» Total expenses: \$275.4 million

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

n independent audit confirms the CNMI's worsening financial crisis, with the government's unreserved fund deficit jumping to \$300.8 mil-Lion in Fiscal Year 2009 from only \$256.3 million in FY 2008 amid unsuccessful attempts to curb expenses through legislation. **See DEFICIT on Page 4**

NMC paid \$60K to former CFAO for contractual work

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Two years after leaving the Northern Marianas College, former chief financial and administrative officer Raaj Kurapati continues to work for the institution and has been paid \$60,000 to date for contractual work that range

from analyzing audit reports, to training an incoming CFO, to reviewing NMC's procurement policies and pro-

Documents obtained by Saipan Tribune through an Open Government Act request show that the college has been retaining Kurapati's services since

See NMC on Page 4



IN FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 17TH LEGISLATURE

13 of 29 lawmakers have perfect attendance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO REPORTER

Legislature attended all regular and having a perfect attendance.

Senate during the first six months

special sessions of the House and All absences of 16 members were considered "excused" for a host of of the year, but lawmakers have dif- reasons, including off-island medi-Only 13 of the 29-member 17th ferent opinions on the importance of cal treatment, sickness for a few See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

TEACHER MENTORS

Participants in yesterday's PSS Mentoring Institute pose with their facilitator, Kathryn Tallerico of the National Staff Development Council, center, before beginning their afternoon session at San Vicente Elementary School's cafeteria.

See story on Page 2.

Alleged 'ice' trafficker, girlfriend nabbed. PAGE 3 CNMI farmers, ranchers to get relief from high transport cost. PAGE7



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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

PSS, BOE want all staff exempted from austerity bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA REPORTER

Education officials are expected to troop to the Legislature today to voice their opposition to a proposed austerity bill that will not exempt Public School System support staff from the

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said yesterday that PSS and BOE remain firm in opposing an across-the-board austerity law as this would affect the flow of federal dollars to PSS.

changed. We want full exemption [for] the system's personnel... not only instructional employees. That proposal will not work for PSS," said Blanco-Maratita.

The latest austerity bill in the House exempts only public school teachers. PSS administrative staff and support staffers will be covered.

PSS has about a thousand employees, both federally and locally funded. These include teachers, maintenance workers, and support staff.

Blanco-Maratita pointed out

"The board's position hasn't that non-instructional employees are vital to the day-to-day operation of schools. "How can we run the schools if we don't have our support staff?" she asked.

> She said both the administration and lawmakers should consider the possible effect the proposal will have on student learning.

> In order for PSS to take full advantage of the \$32 million State Fiscal Stabilization Fund under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, it must adhere to maintenance-of-effort agreement it signed with the

U.S. Department of Education. The MOE requires the CNMI to allocate a fixed percentage of its local budget for education.

Cutting personnel cost for PSS staff would jeopardize that MOE, said Blanco-Maratita.

The USDOE earlier this year warned PSS of its possible noncompliance with the MOE requirement in the event the local budget for schools is lowered. The austerity bill now pending in the House may result in PSS getting a lesser amount than the required percentage so PSS is asking for an exemption.

TO ELIMINATE HIGH TURNOVER AT PSS

45 educators join coaching institute

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

Forty-five public school educators signed up yesterday for a weeklong Project Teacher Mentor program that aims to teach them how to become more effective and independent educators.

Facilitated by Kathryn Tallerico of the National Staff Development Council, the sessions started Tuesday at San Vicente Elementary School and saw the involvement of school administrators, program specialists, and classroom teachers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

'Our goal is to make them independent and more effective classroom teachers," she told Saipan Tribune, adding that studies have revealed that instructional coaching and mentoring are proven ways for students to learn.

According to PSS associate commissioner for Instruction and Curriculum Jackie Quitugua, the institute focuses on instructional coaching for new public school teachers.

At training's end, each participant will be certified as mentors who could automatically coach or mentor their new peers on PSS benchmarks and standards, policies and culture, parental involvement, and activities in classrooms.

"It's a support system for our novice or new teachers. Today's participants—mostly teachers—are willing to take the additional responsibility of helping their new colleagues by coaching them what they have learned from here," she said.

This "peer-coaching; peermentoring" initiative is part of the expansion of the Project Teacher Mentor program that started in 2006.

"This is really for retention of our teachers because finding teachers is always been a challenge for PSS. We're providing all the support to these mentors because this is also for sustainability and building capacity for the system. We want to minimize the turnover rate every year," said Quitugua.

Currently, PSS has over 500 classroom teachers. The system faces a shortage of teaching personnel every year.

Koblerville Elementary School had three participants in yesterday's session, not including principal Rizzalina Purunganan, who said she has four new teachers.

Purunganan said new teachers are those with less than three years of experience at PSS. They will be provided individual professional development sessions by their mentors throughout the school year.



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'Reinstate AP courses on Tinian, Rota'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona has asked Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to reinstate advanced placement courses on Tinian and Rota to provide students more opportunities after

Alleged 'ice' dealer, girlfriend nabbed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

terdie_delatorre@saipantribune.con REPORTER

A suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" and his girlfriend were arrested Tuesday night on Saipan during a buy-bust operation.

Hong Wang and his girlfriend, Ling Ling Song, were arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance, illegal possession of controlled substance, conspiracy to trafficking of controlled substance, and receiving stolen property.

Bail was set at \$30,000 cash for each of the suspects.

Adam Hardwicke was appointed counsel for Song. A private counsel will be appointed for Wang.

At yesterday's hearing, detective Sean White told the court how the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force conducted the investigation and buy-bust operation that led to Wang and Song's arrest.

White said a cooperating source told them that Wang, an alleged illegal taxi driver, is an "ice" dealer who would exchange illegal drugs for laptops, digital cameras, TVs, and other electronic items.

White said their cooperating source managed to buy 'ice" from Wang inside his car in a parking lot of a store in San Jose. Song was in the vehicle with their child during the drug transaction.

The task force followed the car and then arrested them near the Northern Marianas College. The child was taken to the Division of Youth Services, the car was impounded, and their house was searched.

White said "ice" and paraphernalia and cash were recovered during the search.

high school

By reinstating the program, Manglona said, "our students will have the opportunity to earn college credits in high school shortening their time at college and lowering tuition bills."

Students on both islands will also have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, learning styles, and face greater challenges for high achievers, said Manglona in his letter to Sablan last week.

The reinstatement of AP courses will also provide opportunities for teachers to stretch their capacity by teaching college-level materials.

"Offering AP courses to Rota and Tinian students will only benefit them in the future," the lawmaker added.

Advanced placement classes are taught at more advanced levels than normal high school classes. They are as challenging as freshman-level college classes.

Sablan was in a meeting yesterday when contacted for comments.

According to Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-

Maratita, the AP courses for the two islands were suspended or stopped due to the lack of qualified AP instructors.

She said the program is among the board's priorities and that PSS is looking at using video-teleconference or distance learning centers in order to continue the courses for Rota and Tinian high school students.

She said Sablan is also working on an agreement with other institutions that offer online AP courses, particularly in Hawaii.

"It's been in the board's discussions in the past and we acknowledge the importance of bringing those kind of classes to our students," said Blanco-Maratita,

The chairperson pointed out that distance should not stop public school students from getting the education services they need.

Blanco-Maratita said Rota and Tinian students should be able access all services intended for them and stressed PSS and the board's commitment in ensuring equality in terms of providing programs and educational services.

Manglona asks CPA to suspend commuter terminal parking fees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to suspend the commuter terminal parking fees, saying the toll booth service costs exceed the monthly revenue generated.

Manglona wrote CPA executive director Edward M. Deleon Guerrero on July 14, asking for the suspension of the toll booth services

The Senate president said CPA has yet to respond to his letter as of yesterday.

Acting CPA executive director Ed Mendiola's office said Manglona's letter is "still under review." Deleon Guerrero is off-island.

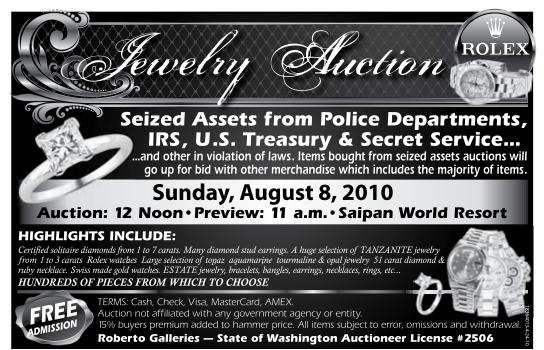
Manglona also said the commuter terminal is currently used by passengers mostly as a drop-off and pick-up point.

"And since the airline services do not require a two-hour checkin requirement or a security process through the Transportation Security Administration, the idea of suspending the toll booth services seems practical," Manglona told Deleon Guerrero.

In a phone interview, Manglona said the toll booth services at the commuter terminal are causing "inconvenience" to residents and tourists, and do not generate additional revenue for CPA.

The commuter terminal beside the Saipan International Airport gives a grace period of 15 minutes and charges \$1 when the elapsed time between entry and exit exceeds the grace period for the first hour and an additional dollar for each additional hour or less.

The parking system at the commuter terminal dispenses a plastic card upon entry and the card is returned when exiting. The system reads the elapsed time between entry and exit and indicates the appropriate charge.





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No solution yet to election funding woes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

The Fitial administration and the Legislature have yet to find ways to fund the conduct of the Nov. 2, 2010 elections to choose the CNMI's nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Failure to hold the election is a violation of the Constitution.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that given the financial state of the government, the administration will explore all its options to determine the most feasible solution.

"We expect to also engage in discussions with the legislature in regards to the possibility of appropriating the needed funds," he said.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said the new law giving the governor authority to reprogram up to \$10 million should be able to address the funding shortage faced by the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), however, said the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill will provide sufficient funding for the Commonwealth Election Commission for it to conduct the November elections.

The House Ways and Means Committee has yet to introduce an FY 2011 budget bill.

Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said on Tuesday that the absence of funding could result in no elections on Nov. 2.

The commission estimates the entire election to cost \$128,000.

This will cover logistics and operational expenditures, including public education for two legislative initiatives that have so far been transmitted to the commission. The commission estimates spending \$40,000 on public education for each initiative.



BEACH CLEANUP

Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop employees pose with the garbage they collected after a beach cleanup they did on July 14, 2010.

an effective lawmaker is being able

to participate in discussions during

sessions, and being able to vote on

The House members with perfect

attendance include Vice Speaker

Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan),

Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-

Saipan), Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan),

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian),

Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan),

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan),

Rep. Antonio Sablan (R-Saipan),

important legislation.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

days, official business travel off-island, or personal leave.

In the 20-member House of Representatives, half or 10 members had perfect attendance in the 17 regular and special sessions between Jan. 11 and June 28, 2010.

In the Senate, three of nine senators have perfect attendance in 12 regular and special sessions held during the first six months of the year.

They include Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-

Those who attended 11 of 12 sessions include Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Manglona's only absence was dur-

ing the time when he testified at an oversight hearing on CNMI immigration in Washington, D.C.

Sens. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan) and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) each attended 10 of 12 sessions, while Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) attended only eight of 12 sessions.

The only time all 20 members of the House were present were during the inaugural session on Jan. 11 and on Jan. 28.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) attended only nine of 17 House sessions.

Tenorio said he was off-island on official business and for family medical reasons.

Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) underwent two surgeries in Manila, causing him to be absent from six sessions.

But while Deleon Guerrero was off-island for medical reason, he solicited his father's help, former senator Herman R. Deleon Guerrero, to

manage the operations of his office, including work on all legislative matters that came across his desk.

"Perfect attendance does matter," he said yesterday, adding that lawmakers should be able to participate in debates and discussions on important issues.

Besides Tenorio and Deleon Guerrero, the other House members with excused absences include: Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) with four absences; Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) with three absences each; Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente with two absences each; and Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) with one absence each.

Santos and Benavente, among other House members, went to Washington, D.C. for congressional hearings.

Yumul said one of the qualities of

DEFICIT

From Page 1

This marks a 17.4 percent or \$44.5 million increase in just one year as expenses continued to exceed revenue collection.

These figures are contained in a Deloitte & Touche LLC independent auditors' report on the CNMI government's financial statements for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2009.

The June 2010 report, obtained by Saipan Tribune yesterday, also contains financial highlights from the CNMI Department of Finance, such as \$275.4 million in expenses for government activities.

payments made or due autonomous agencies and were funded in part by program revenues of \$117.4 million, as well as by taxes and other general revenues of \$112.8 million.

enues of \$230.2 million and total expenses of \$275.4 million is what resulted in the \$45.2 million increase in net deficiency," Finance Secretary Robert Schrack said.

Schrack said this net deficiency represents a 38-percent increase from the

The CNMI completely lost its garment industry early in 2009, leaving the local economy with just one major industry-tourism-itself also in a state of decline.

In 2009, total assets stood at over \$280 million compared to the previous

debated on without the presence of their authors, but he said others tried to help clarify provisions of these

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep.

Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep.

certainly a difference between not

Conner, for his part, said there

are times when important pieces of

legislation are being discussed and

being there and being there."

measures.

Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan). Tebuteb said vesterday "there is

over \$413 million the previous year. At the end of FY 2009, the CNMI had \$202.2 million invested in capital assets, net of depreciation, including land, infrastructure, vehicles and other machinery and equipment, buildings and various projects under construc-

This marks a net decrease of \$3.1 million or 1.5 percent from the previous year.

At year-end, the CNMI also had \$131.1 million in long-term debt outstanding, which represents a net decrease of \$2.6 million or 2 percent net decrease from the prior year.

'Not much recovery in sight'

The Finance secretary said economic factors continue to play a large role in developing the tax and other revenue budgets for the general fund of the CNMI.

"The local economy, still slowed by the effects of a drop in tourism and the decline of the garment industry, has continued to follow a trend of decreasing revenues. The prospects for fiscal year 2010 appear similar, with not much recovery in sight," Schrack said.

He added that this financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the CNMI's finances and to show the CNMI's accountability for the money it receives.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial revised the projected revenue for FY 2010 to \$137 million, from \$148 million.

His FY 2011 budget submission further brings the projected revenue down to \$132 million, and this hinges on cost-cutting measures such as work hour and salary cuts.

The 17th Legislature, however, has yet to pass any austerity bill to cut spending.

travel expenses under this contract, amounting to \$3,223.59.

who came aboard in September 2009.

On Nov. 30, 2009, this contract was again amended to provide an additional \$9,900 for Kurapati's services.

lege paid for some of Kurupati's travel expenses and per diem.

\$3,005.4 for his travel to Washington,

with a per diem allowance of \$894. On Nov. 1-3, 2009, Kurupati billed NMC a total of \$3,223.59 for official

Saipan Tribune learned that Kurapati has also some small procurement coning service contract with NMC.

'Use of consultants not unique'

In a statement to Saipan Tribune yesterday, NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera indicated that the use of consultants is not unique to NMC.

"The use of consultants is not unique to the Northern Marianas College, so the procurement of Mr. Kurapati's services should not be taken out of context," her statement said.

Cabrera said the "complexities of resolving many audit recommendations and the limited timeframe that we have in doing so requires the services of someone like Mr. Kurapati who is extremely familiar with the college and its financial reporting and internal control structure.'

She added that as a former CFAO, Kurapati's contributions have been extremely valuable to NMC's efforts to address many issues that affect the college's continued compliance with accreditation requirements.

"The Northern Marianas College, in procuring Mr. Kurapati's services, conformed to its procurement policies and procedures. The college has relied on his expertise, specialized knowledge, and proficiency for the past several years," the interim president added.

Kurapati is currently based in Alaska.

These include expenses recorded for

"The difference between total rev-

"The results indicate the CNMI's financial condition, as a whole, continued to decline in the current year," he said.

year's over \$294 million.

Total liabilities were pegged at over \$444 million in 2009, an increase from

NMC

From Page 1

2008 using numerous contracts.

NMC's first contract for Kurupati's outsourced services was in November 2008, costing \$2,500.

On June 1, 2009, Kurapati was approved a contract worth \$4,950 for three specific scopes of work-assisting with the reconciliation of fixed assets, formulating audit responses, and preparing and presenting management discussion and analysis required in an audit report.

On June 16, 2009, this contract was amended to provide Kurapati another \$4,950 for additional duties that include electronic submission of the Fiscal Year 2008 audit report to the U.S. Department of Education; federal audit clearing as required by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget; and the 2008 annual fiscal report for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

These contracts and its addendum bear the signature of former president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and the college's full-time CFAO at the time, Rogelio Madriaga.

In July 2009, Kurapati signed another contract with NMC in the amount of \$9,500 for five specific jobs: assist with reviewing NMC's procurement policies and procedures, assist in completing the fixed assets accounting, assist with the correction of audit findings on accounts receivable, work with federal agencies to resolve findings and questioned costs in the FY 2008 audit, and continue work on

FY 2007 audit resolution. NMC also shouldered Kurupati's

On Sept. 30, 2009, NMC amended this contract and paid Kurupati an additional \$9,900 to prepare NMC's 2009 financial statements and to train the incoming CFAO, Henry Hofschneider,

NMC records also show that the col-On Dec. 13-17, 2008, NMC paid

business trips; and \$44.60 for ground transportation on Sept. 10-13, 2008.

tracts with the college and has an ongo-

New local law gives \$43,000 to Tinian scholarship fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a local bill into law yesterday, giving an additional \$43,000 to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Fund.

House Local Bill 17-23, introduced by Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian), is now Tinian Local Law 17-3.

Conner, in an interview yesterday, said the \$43,000 is in addition to the \$20,000 earlier appropriated for the scholarship

fund, for a total of \$63,000.

He said 50 to 70 Tinian students are expected to benefit from this scholarship fund in the next semester.

"We hope that each student will get at least \$1,000 in scholarship...I thank the governor for signing this local bill into a local law, and for understanding the needs of students. It couldn't have come at a better time... Contrary to criticism that we took away money from the scholarship fund to pay the nurses, we always try

to provide scholarship money in a timely manner," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the Tinian Legislative Delegation which he chairs "is committed to providing scholarship funding" for students.

The new local law appropriates \$24,000 in local license fees collected from poker and pachinko slot machines on Tinian, and re-appropriates \$19,000 from Tinian Local Laws 16-6 and 16-9, to go toward student scholarships.

It restores funding for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Fund that was earlier provided to cover for the two payrolls of Tinian Health Center nurses and auxiliary staff.



Suspected 'ice' dealer surrenders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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Pedro Rediall Demapan, a 38-year-old man being hunted by the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force for alleged trafficking of methamphetamine or

"ice" surrendered to a detective yesterday.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said that Demapan contacted Detective Roque Camacho yesterday at 6am and expressed his intention to turn himself in.

Demapan

to turn himself in.

Tarkong said Camacho met with Demapan at the Family Discount Store in Susupe, where the suspect was taken

into custody at 6:24am.

At yesterday's court hearing, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman doubled the \$50,000 cash bail that the prosecution earlier recommended for Demapan's temporary liberty.

Wiseman noted that Demapan had several prior criminal convictions and was just released from jail on April 30.

Preliminary hearing was set for July 28 at 9am.

Demapan is being held for trafficking of a controlled substance, illegal possession of a controlled substance, and conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance.

Assistant attorneys general Shelli Neal and Peter B. Prestley appeared for the government at the hearing. The court will appoint a lawyeer for Demapan.

Detective Camacho stated in his report that on July 10, 2010, he and a CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer met a cooperating source who told them that Pedro Demapan has

been selling "ice."

Camacho said he, task force members, and DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau agents used the cooperating source to buy \$100 worth of "ice" from Demapan.

It was Demapan's partner, Sylvan Magofna Cabrera, who allegedly showed up at the agreed meeting place in Chalan Kanoa.

Police arrested Cabrera on Thursday night in Koblerville.

While searching for Pedro Demapan, police and a task force member arrested Friday night his brother, Francisco Demapan, who was allegedly found in possession of "ice" and paraphernalia.

Japanese man, 57, hurt in robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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A 57-year-old Japanese national was injured when an unidentified man attacked him with a wooden club during a robbery at a dive shop in Susupe last Friday night.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the victim had bruises on his right leg and swollen lips. The victim, whom the police declined to identify, refused to be brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

The victim lost his bag, cell phone, and \$100 cash.

The suspect was described as wearing black clothing.

Police officer Jesus Wabol had responded Friday at 8:33pm to a reported theft at Blue Sea Sports Dive Shop across the Shell Gas Station in Susupe.

Wabol learned that the victim had just returned to the shop after

dinner when the suspect suddenly attacked him from behind near the front door, hitting him on the face and leg with a wooden club.

As the victim covered his face to protect himself, the robber grabbed his bag containing his money, cell phone and other items

The robber then ran north, scaled the fence of the Saipan Community School, and proceeded toward the Susupe Regional Park.

"A wooden stick was left at the scene and is believed to be the weapon used to strike the victim," Tarkong said.

Tarkong said the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the NMI Crime Stoppers Hotline are seeking help from the community if they have information about the suspect. Tarkong said tipsters may call CIB at 664-9042 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272.

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RIDGE TO REEF RANGERS PROGRAM

Program aims to teach children about Saipan's reefs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

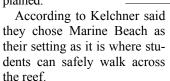
For the first time, the National Park Service on Saipan is spearheading a weeklong resource management education week for fifth and sixth-graders called the Ridge to Reef Rangers 2010.

Slated for July 26 to 30, Ridge to Reef Rangers 2010 is a collaboration of the National Park Service, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Pacific Historical Parks, formerly Arizona Memorial Museum Association.

Park Ranger Nancy A. Kelchner of the American Memorial mer camp program is to introduce the 20 student participants

to the personality of the reef.

"Most of these kids live [on] this little island and don't go in the water. It's there all the time so it's something they just don't think about," she explained.



Kelchner said the 20 kids will go out on the field each morning to snorkel, visit the coral reef

Park said the idea of this sum- where they can get up close and personal with its vibrant colors.

"We want them to be a friend.

To be a friend, you have to give and take. So for the rest of the week, we will introduce them to the personality of the reef and all the neighbors and friends that live in the reef like fishes

and other plants," she said. Kelchner said these students will learn about the impact on the reef if people do not observe practices that would help pro-

tect coral reefs. The participants will receive adult supervision when they go to the water, said Kelchner. There will be 10 JROTC members of the Saipan Southern High School who will also assist and serve as counselors for participants. Two naval personnel will also take part.

Kelchner said the students will also be planting grasses and trees and picking up manmade trash.

A booklet devised by Park Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor and the Youth Conservation Corps summer students will be distributed to the participants. Each booklet contains lesson plans and educational activities. Students will also receive t-shirts, water bottles and little backpacks courtesy of the Pacific Historical Parks.

On their last day, there will be a picnic and a slideshow presentation of the underwater photos the students have taken.

Kelchner said all participants

will receive a certificate for completing the program.

"Hopefully, the program will encourage stewardship among these students in the long run," said Fishman-Tudor.

Detention guard gets more time to prepare for his trial

A detention guard who is fac- and set the new trial date to ing charges of using his position to force a female ward at the Kagman Juvenile Detention to engage in sex acts asked the federal court yesterday to give him and his lawyer more time to prepare for trial.

Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial and his counsel, Loren Sutton, stated they needed enough time. Fitial waived his right to a speedy trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto, on behalf of the U.S. government, did not object.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Robert J. Bryan granted Fitial's request Oct. 18, 2010 at 9am.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested the 24-year-old Fitial last June 11 after an indictment was filed against him in federal court charging him with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law.

The indictment alleged that around October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial coerced the child by means of force and threats to engage in sexual acts while the minor was a ward at the Kagman Detention and Correctional Facility.

The defendant pleaded not guilty. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Kelchner

Department of Public Health Office of the Secretary of Public Health



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the Department of Public Health's programs (listed below) will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2010, for Professional Development and Team Building Skills training.

WIC Program Public Health Dental Clinic C*DAC (Children's Developmental Assistance Center) **Immunization Clinic HIV/STD Resource Center Breast and Cervical Screening Program Bureau of Environmental Health Chest Clinic Public Health Accounting Office**

We ask for the public's patience and understanding as we take this time to learn and develop skills to better serve our community.

Regular hours will resume on Monday, July 26, 2010.

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Ogumoro: Zoning chief position 'very challenging, motivational'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

When the Zoning administrator post was vacated by Victor Barrett early this year, it was Zoning Office's own Therese Ogumoro who took over the job and served in an acting capacity.

Barrett resigned on January 2010, barely seven months after he was hired in June 2009.

Now that the new Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt has been hired and officially joined the office last Monday, Ogumoro is back to her original post as a planner.

She described her sevenmonth stint as acting administrator "very challenging yet very motivational."

"I was exposed to a lot of situations. I found myself having to balance between the staff office operation and the business community. We went through so many challenges," said Ogumoro.

said there were a lot of issues and concerns that came up during her term but they were able to work them out. "Although rough and mostly challenging, it had been very fun."

During the Zoning board's meeting Monday night, Ogumoro brought the board up to date on the developments made by the office in a span of seven months.

According to Ogumoro, they were able to issue an average of 60 permits every month from January to May this year despite the personnel shortage.

Between June and as of July 20, the Zoning Office was able to issue 119 permits. "The office has been so busy," she added.

In spite of the demands of the job, Ogumoro believes that the Zoning Office was able to pull it through by working together.

'The thing I'm just so proud of was the teamwork and group effort that the staff and I had to prove in the midst of outside pressures. ... We maintained ourselves with trying to keep up with our responsibilities and what we need to do for this program to succeed," she said.

Ogumoro also expressed her faith in Wyatt, adding that his knowledge and experience can help guide the zoning program.

"I will provide him whatever support he needs to run the show," she added.

With the additional staff— Wyatt and zoning enforcement officer Christopher Mendiola Camacho, who was hired last month—Ogumoro said they are optimistic that they will be able to accomplish more.

"With the combined skills, As interim chief, Ogumoro expertise, and educational experience of the current staff makeup, Zoning would reach its objective in no time: to attain what the program is here for, and that is to ensure that existing and new developments are organized in the community," she said.

> When asked if she would still take on the job given the chance, Ogumoro replied, "I honestly hope that that time will never come, but yes, I will accept the opportunity. Aside from the physical workout brought by the enforcement component, I went through a very intense mental workout. It's fun and worthwhile to go through that experience."

CNMI farmers, ranchers to get relief from high transport cost

Farmer and ranchers in the CNMI and other U.S-affiliated countries and territories will soon see relief from high transportation costs through funding authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, also called the Farm Bill.

Farmers and ranchers in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau who paid to transport either an agricultural commodity or an input used to produce an agricultural commodity will be partially reimbursed for these costs.

"The Obama Administration believes farm programs should provide the stability and predictability agricultural producers need, "said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "American producers outside the contiguous States often have to take extraordinary measures to transport needed items to their farms and ranches, and then experience substantial costs when they transport their farm output to markets. This program will provide relief to eligible producers who are at a competitive disadvantage."

Vilsack said recent rising fuel costs have made this competitive disadvantage worse.

The Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, announced through the Farm Service Agency, is intended to offset a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances.

The Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agen-

tiguous States often have to take extraordinary measures to transport needed items to their farms and ranches, and then experience substantial costs when tices Appropriations Act, 2010 (2010 Agricultural Appropriations Bill) provides \$2.6 million for this Farm Bill program in fiscal year 2010.

Signup for RTCP will begin on Aug. 2, 2010 and end on Sept. 10, 2010. Applicants must file their RTCP applicants also will have until Nov. 1, 2010, to provide supporting documentation of actual costs of transporting agricultural inputs and commodities in fiscal year 2010 to the FSA county office.

For more information on the new RTCP program, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda. gov/pricesupport. (PR)



POST-PRANDIAL PHOTO

CLARISSA V DAVID

Employees of Delta Air Lines Saipan and Japan offices pose for a photo after a hearty lunch at Amigo's Pizza. From left, standing, Lucille and Beau Tomokane of Saipan office; Bhavan Thapa, daughter Sandhya, wife Tomomi, and daughter Shanti from Japan; and Takashi Inoue with daughter Niko, also from Japan.

Triple J gets conditional permit for apartment building project

» Zoning board approves 2 conditional uses, 1 rezone

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

The odds remain in favor of Triple J Saipan as the Saipan Zoning Board approved its conditional use permit application during its regular board meeting last July 20.

Zoning planner Therese Ogumoro said yesterday that she made a presentation to the board Tuesday evening about the proposed apartment building construction project of Triple J Saipan.

Triple J Saipan plans to build Sandy Beach Homes, two 60-unit apartment buildings on a private land by the beach behind the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

A conditional use permit is needed for the project since the proposed height of the apartment buildings is 74 feet, above the standard measurement of 48 feet.

In the evaluation report, Ogumoro took into consideration the comments and recommendations that were given during the public hearing conducted by the zoning office last July 12.

"I presented my findings to the board, with a recommendation to approve the conditional use permit application," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Of the five board members, four expressed their support for the application. One board member declined to participate due to conflict of interest, she said.

Now that the conditional use application has been approved, Ogumoro said they will prepare the permit and advise the applicant once it is processed.

Triple J Enterprises Corporate Auditor Michael S. Sablan

said in a telephone interview yesterday that they are looking forward to the approval of the conditional use permit.

"We are very pleased that the conditional use [application] was granted," he said.

According to Sablan, the approval of the conditional use permit is another component critical to the project.

The next hurdle would be the major siting application with the Coastal Resources Management which will conduct a public hearing today, he said.

"We're prepared to answer any questions that the [CRM] or the public has," said Sablan.

Sablan also said that the project developer "has taken extra measures to work on the aesthetics of the project," adding that the design, landscaping, site walks, beach access and other elements are in place to make it more neighborhood-friendly.

He said Triple J Saipan remains hopeful in their application with CRM following indications of support from a lot of individuals, groups, and even government agencies for their construction project.

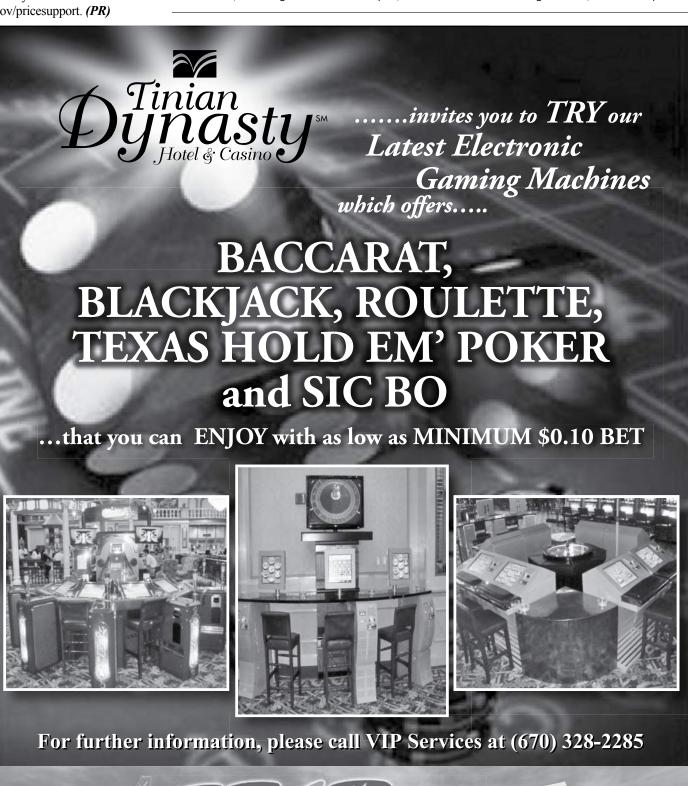
Star ATV, Kagman rezone

Another conditional use permit application was also approved by the board Tuesday evening.

The conditional use application of Star 1 Corp., doing business as Star ATV Tracking, for outdoor amusement conditional use in Kannat Tabla, was approved by the board.

Ogumoro added that the board also consented to the rezoning of a Kagman lot, which comprises the intersection going down to where the Mobil gas station is located.

According to Ogumoro, the former rural zone is now classified as mixed commercial zone district.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PAWS: Changing of the Guards

PAWS will be hosting a general meeting, open to the public, Thursday nest week, July 29, 2010, at Shenanigan's in Garapan at 5:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit volunteers for the organization.

Currently, PAWS is undergoing a change in board members. PAWS president Katie Busenkell will be resigning in mid-August as she is moving off-island. Board member Ron Smith will also be resigning to pursue other volunteer commitments. The only board member remaining with the organization will be Bobbi Grizzard, who has acted as treasurer since 1993 when the organization was first established.

Volunteers are needed to an-

swer calls to the PAWS hotline (285-PAWS), pick up and/or advertise unwanted and abandoned animals, and reach out to the public. If you are interested in volunteering for PAWS, call 285-PAWS, e-mail Bobbi Grizzard at bobbi.grizzard@gmail. com, or simply come to the meeting at Shenanigan's on July 29. **(PR)**

KagES Summer Backpack program is here

The "Take Home Summer Backpack" program has arrived. Parents or guardians are required to attend a one-hour training session on how to use these educational materials at home during the summer break. Your child will get the "Take Home Summer Backpack" provided the parent or guardian attends the training on any of the following schedule:

■ July 27, 2010: Kindergarten to 5th grade, 9-10am and 2-3pm, cafeteria

■ July 28, 2010: Kindergarten to 5th grade, 9-10am and 2-3pm, cafeteria

You are all encouraged to come and attend the parent training session. (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 9th birthday to our loving son, Tommy Gregory! Much blessing and prosperous years Love, Mom, Dad, Dylen and Tho'leyan Dyommy!

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELEOPMENT AUTHORITY, Civil Action No. 04-0242B NOTICE OF SECOND AUCTION FELIPE Q. ATALIG, individually & dba CASA DE FELIPE and, ELVIRA CUSTODIO ATALIG,

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Felipe Q. Atalig, individually and dba Casa de Felipe, and Elvira Custodio in the following described, real property situated in Ginalayan, Rota, CNMI will

> Real estate mortgage on Tract No. 21769-R2-2, situated in Ginalayan, Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Survey Plat of Tract 21796-R2, DLS Check No. 3007/95, recorded as File No. 95-841, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on April 05, 1995, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

> Real estate mortgage on Tract No. 21769-R2-3, situated in Ginalayan, Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Survey Plat of Tract 21769-R2, DLS Check No. 3007/95, recorded as File No. 95-841, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on April 05, 1995, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

> Real estate mortgage on Tract No. 21769-R2-4, situated in Ginalayan, Rota, CNMI, Containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Survey Plat of Tract 21769-R2, DLS Check No. 3007/95, recorded as File No. 95-841, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on April 05, 1995, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 23, 2010, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

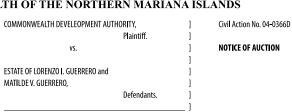
- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.
- Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- <u>Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.</u> Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- 4. <u>Bids.</u> Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and ent, written or oral, made before the auction or at t and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 7. <u>Inspection and No Warranty.</u> Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Felipe Q. Atalig, individually and dba Casa de Felipe, and Elvira Custodio Atalig in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 17th day of June 2010

/s/SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner Department of Public Safety







The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants the Estate of Lorenzo I. Guerrero and Matilde V. Guerrero in the following described, real property situated in As Lito, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an

> Tract No. 21851 "A" situated in As Lito, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 20,000 square meters $more\ or\ less, as\ more\ particularly\ described\ on\ Drawing/Cadastral\ Plat\ Number\ 0256/77, the\ original$ of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document Number 7318, on the 4th of April 1978. Including all existing and future permanent improvements on the said real property, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, July 23, 2010, subject to the following announced terms and conditions

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.
- Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the Estate of Lorenzo I. Guerrero and Matilde V. Guerrero in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 17th day of June 2010.

/s/SANTIAGO F. TUDELA. Commissioner Department of Public Safety





A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 22, 1999

Plaintiffs to bring class action suit to 9th Circuit

The anonymous plaintiffs in the class action suit involving Saipan's garment companies will elevate their case to the Ninth Circuit Court to appeal federal Judge Alex Munson's dismissal of their complaint, according to their lawyers. On behalf of the 23 plaintiffs, lawyer Timothy Skinner yesterday filed a motion at the US District Court on Saipan asking that the 45-day stay of its dismissal order be extended until the plaintiffs get a ruling from the appellate court. In dismissing the labor complaint Monday, Munson ruled that the plaintiffs, identified only as "Does", should identify themselves to enable the defendants garment companies to defend themselves against their allegations.

Court acquits suspected pimp

Citing lack of evidence, the Superior Court yesterday acquitted a man of prostitution and loitering charges. In acquitting Zhang Liang, Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas said there was no sufficient evidence to prove that the defendant committed the offenses he was charged with. Zhang was arrested by police officers last Jan. 27 based on a warrant issued by the court. The government launched last year an island-wide crackdown on prostitution following the enactment of anti-loitering measure, which is aimed at giving teeth to the CNMI's anti-prostitution law. The Attorney General's Office charged Zhang on suspicion that he was pimping.

July 22, 2002

Verizon sale is about what and when, not about whom

Increasing government interference in the transfer of Verizon Micronesia to a private consortium has prompted the Board of Directors of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to ask the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission to expedite the transfer by focusing on "what and when, and not about whom." Chamber president Richard A. Pierce was quick to add, though, that the Board's comments is not for, or against, the selected purchasing firm, or the CNMI government and Legislature, but is limited only to the issue of the transaction and how this would affect the operations of the Chamber's members. "The [Chamber]'s sole priority in commenting on this matter is to allow for the smooth and uninterrupted of ownership [of the] telecommunications company, which is so vital to our business members' daily operations," said Pierce.

Supertyphoon misses NMI by hair's breadth

Occasional heavy rains and strong winds were felt on Saipan yesterday as supertyphoon Fengshen approached close to the Marianas region, based on a weather forecast last night from the National Weather Service on Guam. According to the forecast, though, Fengshen would pass far north of the Northern Mariana Islands today. But the Emergency Management Office released a special weather advisory yesterday afternoon, warning Saipan residents of possible floods and landslides as it anticipated heavy rainfall today until Tuesday. High surf activity also prompted response teams from the Emergency Management Office and the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety to respond to an emergency call, when five local teenagers who were swimming at the Grotto area Saturday were trapped on a rock on the waters, unable to return to shore due to rough waves.

July 22, 2003

CHC autonomy proposal passes House

The House of Representatives sealed its approval Friday to legislation that proposes to make the Commonwealth's lone public hospital self-sustaining, in a plan that involves reliance on the Commonwealth Health Center's own cost recovery abilities. Among others, House Bill 13-86, authored by House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, proposes the creation of a board of trustees that would transform CHC into a public corporation that would depend primarily on fees and charges to run its operations. The House Committee on Health and Welfare, in a report, endorsed the passage of HB 13-86, Committee Substitute 1, which was subsequently adopted by the full House during a session.

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> Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Racist brew leaves bad taste

in America? That's where this country finds itself, as many purporting to want a color-blind nation refuse to admit that not everyone shares their dream. Case in point, the beat-down the NAACP has been receiving for having the audacity to point out the obvious: that racists have been infiltrating tea-party movement gatherings because any criticism of America's first black president gives them a buzz.

ince when has it become racist to point out racism

A resolution passed by the NAACP at its national convention didn't say being a tea-party member was equivalent to being a racist. It asked the movement to condemn the extremists too frequently seen at its meetings who carry racist signs and make bigoted comments.

To make its point, the resolution was accompanied by photographs taken at tea-party gatherings, including one of a young white man holding a sign with a drawing of a thicklipped character and the words "Obamanomics Monkey See Monkey Spend."

Another photograph was of a baseball-capped man in a shirt that looked like the flag of Texas, who carried a sign that said "Congress = Slave Owner. Taxpayer = Niggar." Is that type of sentiment to be dismissed as merely patriotic fervor over high taxes?

Tea-party leaders such as Matt Kibbe, CEO of the conservative public-policy group FreedomWorks, say the movement has already made it clear that it doesn't tolerate racism. Apparently, they need to make the point more strongly. Instead of acknowledging that fact, however, tea-partiers have tried to turn criticism away from them to the NAACP.

Tea-party activists accuse the NAACP of being the point man for liberal Democrats who want to distract Americans from the tax-and-spend issues that the tea party feels should be at the forefront of any national debate.

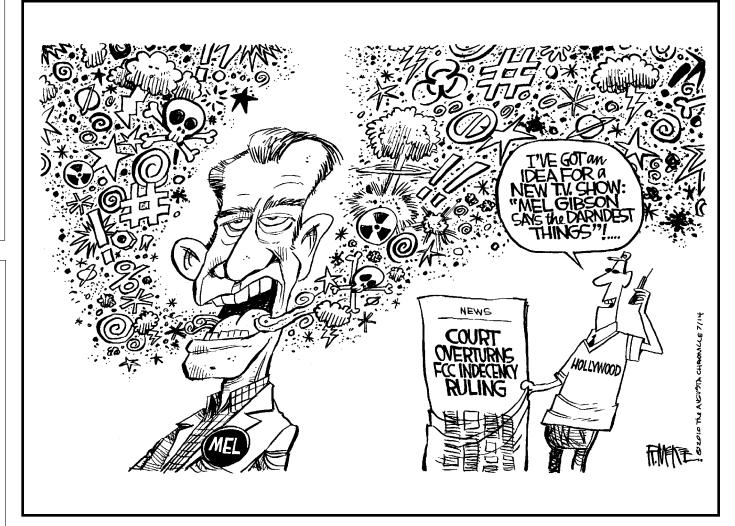
They seem blind to the political machinations of Republicans who hope Obama vitriol will fuel their recapture of

"The only purpose of such an unfair accusation of racism is to dissuade good Americans from joining the tea-party movement or listening to the commonsense message of teaparty Americans who simply want government to abide by our Constitution, live within its means, and not borrow and spend our children's futures," said Sarah Palin.

That's a campaign speech, and can be written off as such. More disturbing are the remarks of nonpoliticians who choose to ignore the alarm sounded by America's oldest and largest civil-rights organization. They act as if racism is dead, and that the NAACP is irresponsible to suggest otherwise.

If the tea-partiers truly want to change America for the better, they will act on the NAACP's charge and work harder to make sure that no one-regardless of skin color, religion, or country of origin—would feel unwelcome. Racism shouldn't be denied; it should be confronted.

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Are accreditors running the colleges?

It's bad enough that

quality. But it's even worse

that they frequently

accreditors often ignore

what they are asked to

By ANNE NEAL MINDING THE CAMPUS

he Western Association of Schools and Colleges is at it again. In the latest set of rulings to come from this regional accreditor's Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, fifteen institutions find themselves in various states of probation or warning or show cause. No school is shut down; the federal dollars keep flowing. And the public is kept mostly in the dark about the accreditor's actions. But what is clear is WASC's unrelenting interference in the governance of these statesupported institutions.

Under current law, Congress has linked accreditation and federal student aid to prevent students from squandering money on diploma mills. Recognized accreditors are authorized, by law, to serve as a

"reliable authority" on the "quality of education or training offered." But the reliance is misplaced. As it turns out, the interests of the accreditors and the federal government are not the same.

At Ohlone College, for example, academic quality is praised. Education is apparently fine. But review, namely educational no matter. The school is placed on warning because the accreditor doesnt like the way the board is functioning and planning.

At San Joaquin Delta College, educational quality is not meneducational quality is not mentioned. But the school is placed on push their own agenda. warning because of problems with

the board of trustees. The board is surely not blameless, but WASC is bent on discouraging appropriate oversight, telling trustees—in the president's words—to "stop micromanaging" when apparently the administration's failure to control cost overruns is forcing the board to cut \$60 million in planned improvements.

Lassen College? Governance again. The federal accreditors who are, remember, faculty and administrators—think they know better than the board of trustees.

Mira Costa College? Board issues yet again—this time, the accreditor finds problems with the "participative governance climate."

Victor Valley College apparently suffers from the same disease. The school has been on "warning" status since 2005—in part because the accreditor is demanding that it establish a "positive campus climate that embodies a culture of respect, civility, dialogue, and trust designed to improve institutional decision-making, planning, and effectiveness."

Recently, WASC found that the University of California Regents

were wanting as well. A special review team—dominated by sitting college presidents—concluded that the Regents had fostered a "culture of interaction" that results in "unnecessarily harsh ... treatment of UC administrators, faculty, and staff." Far from promoting the public interest, accreditors forced the Regents and chancellors to devote precious time, not to mention taxpayer dollars, to respond to their meddling and inaccuracies. Not long after, WASC also cited St. Mary's, a small Catholic college in California's Bay Area, for several issues including what the accreditor deemed a "sustained lack of civility." Crucially, WASC did not cite any evidence to support this claim.

It's bad enough that accreditors often ignore what they are asked to review, namely educational quality. But it's even worse that they frequently push their own agenda—an agenda that interferes with governance and treads mighty close to regulating the exchange of ideas on campus. The situation with WASC and California schools

is a case in point.

Here, it appears the accreditor is picking sides in internal disputes. Under the guise of quality assurance, WASC is demanding that trustees defer to faculty and administrators—the very groups that the review teams represent.

Of course, it might be tolerable if the trustees could tell the accreditors to go away. But under the current regulatory regime, California boards have essentially no choice-regional accreditors such as WASC have carved up the country into little cartels. WASC is the regional gatekeeper for federal

funds. If it doesn't accredit UC or the California community colleges, the institutions can't receive federal student-aid dollars. Causing a school to lose federal funding is tantamount to shutting it down.

So the accreditors wield immense power over these institutions and they are thus able to manipulate what happens on campus in subtle ways. "The interests of the faculty and administrators have become primary to the accreditors and are in direct conflict with engaged, reform-minded trustees," outgoing Hawaii regent Jane Tatibouet—whose university is also subject to WASC accreditation explained at a recent forum in Washington, D.C. "The accreditors, in my view, are subtly 'blackmailing' the academic institution into obedience or sanctions will be imposed. The threat of a sanction or actual probation is the first tool used to keep a Board under the accreditor's thumb, ultimately preventing the Board from performing its role both as steward and visionary while addressing accountability, financial and cost controls, and academic excellence."

See ACCREDITORS on Next Page

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are strictly active that are strictly as the sail of the contributor. of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How am I doing?

hen I was learning to fly, my flight instructor had me go under the hood and close my eyes. This was a large white hood that was placed on my head so I couldn't see outside. He then repositioned the aircraft and told me to open my eyes and make any necessary corrections. Just flying by the seat of my pants, the plane felt like we were flying straight and steady. Without any other feedback, the plane would have eventually crashed into the ground.

The whole purpose of the exercise was to teach me to put my trust in the instruments rather than just how I felt at the moment. The various instruments offer continuous feedback to help a pilot take corrective action. Ignoring or not monitoring the airspeed, altitude or attitude of the aircraft is pure folly.

Many business owners make the same mistakes within their companies. They tend to run their business by the "seat of their pants" and ignore or not monitor feedback from their employees or customers. Many don't have a mechanism to get feedback from their frontline employees who deal with their customers everyday and hear their complaints or suggestions. If you aren't getting continuous communication about how your organization is doing, then your business may "fly" straight and steady for awhile, but it will eventually lose altitude and crash.

Here are four ways to effectively get feedback that will allow you to take corrective action. The first and easiest is to just talk to your customers on a regular basis. Ask them questions to learn how they feel about your company. If you want to be more systematic, you can prepare a few questions for your staff to ask during their interaction with customers. Not only will your employees learn more about your customers, but the simple act of asking questions demonstrates that you care and are interested in their feedback. Questions can also open up a conversation that will allow your staff to build stronger relationships.

Document the answers to look for any trends or reoccurring positive or negative aspects of your business. If you keep hearing the same complaint, then you'd better do something about it because it is what your customers will be telling other people about your business.

A second and more formal method for feedback is to ask your customers to complete a survey or questionnaire about your business. Keep it short and to the point, and give the survey after they have made an order or completed a transaction. To get maximum participation, include the surveys in a drawing for a valuable prize.

Some companies get a little more sophisticated by sending online surveys that automatically compile the results. I've received several sales receipts that asked me to go to a Web site to take an online survey, and after completing it, I was offered a coupon for 10 percent off my next purchase or some other incentive.

Third, you can have mystery shoppers visit your business and complete an evaluation form that rates various aspects of your business. We've conducted over 1,500 mystery shopper visits and I often have my students visit local businesses. Employees who know that a mystery shopper may be visiting tend to provide better service because they don't know which customer will be formally evaluating them.

Hotels, larger corporations, and franchises often conduct mystery shopper visits to get valuable feedback about how the company is doing. They also have service standards, and train personnel to adhere to those standards. Countries such as Australia and New Zealand have developed service standards for businesses that deal with tourists. Those businesses that adhere to the standards and pass their mystery shopper test are listed in their advertising and are given a star rating or allowed to display a decal that tells tourists they are a quality business.

The last method is more difficult, but it makes every customer

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, business instructor and consultant. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@ gmail.com, and you can comment on this or other articles at http://rikv.blogspot.com.



a potential mystery shopper for your company and provides valuable feedback on a continuous basis. Provide an online forum where customers can rate and comment on your business. This is available in the U.S. through such companies as eOpinions.com for products and AngiesList.com for businesses.

Allowing all your customers to offer feedback may seem daunting to some businesses who would rather not know what their customers think. However, they tend to be the same businesses that would rather stay under the hood and "fly by the seat of their pants." Your customers are already talking about your business, so why not let them share their suggestions and comments with you and others. You may discover things that will help you improve or provide better service. Just offering the service alone will keep all your employees sharp and careful to treat each customer with care, since a poor experience could be broadcast online. You can also encourage customers to thank you for excellent service by asking them to post a comment and giving your business a high rating.

Any method you use to gather feedback will allow you to better serve your customers and make improvements that cause them to return and share their experiences with others. Don't go "under the hood" when it comes to operating your business.

Letters to the Editor

A tribute to master navigator Mau Piailug

Last Monday marked the first week after the passing of uncle Mau, the one and only grand master navigator of our time, whose name will go down in history books as the first and only Micronesian navigator to ever sail thousands of miles between Hawaii and Tahiti. His monumental feat in that 1976 historical voyage proved the skeptics completely wrong, and made many Western scholars rethink history and to believe in the Pacific way of non-instrumentally aided traditional navigation.

Papa Mau, as he is fondly known by those close to him, was a humble man with a generous heart, who understood and foresaw the eventual consequence of our outer islands of Yap oral culture. Once he told me, and I am sure I am not the only outer islander he said this to, that if we each steadfastly follow our cultural practice of not allowing others to learn our tradition, our local navigation, medicine, canoe and home building skills will eventually die with those that possess those skills. That vision, I believe, was the driving force behind his generosity and determination to pass on his knowledge. Needless to say, the seeds that he sowed throughout the Pacific will ensure that his passion in navigation will live on for many years and many generations to come.

Uncle Mau was well known for his navigational prowess and historical achievements as a palu, but perhaps not that many know that he was also an accomplished and a respected selap, a master canoe builder; a sausafey, medicine man; and a saufal, a home and canoe house builder. These were some of the skills that Uncle Mau also mastered, and I never doubt that he also held them dearly in his heart.

James Yangetmai Uncle Mau was a man who saw no barrier to friendship. Those Chalan Laulau, Saipan

that befriended him became his brothers for life. I first met Mau Pialug in 1968 during my childhood years when he came to my island, Ifaluk, with his uncle to carve a main hull of a canoe, which was eventually shipped off to his island and shaped into a long distance voyaging sailing canoe. His nearly two months of stay on my island also marked the beginning of a lifetime friendship between him and my dad. Though he had made so many friends since, his friendship with my dad never faltered and remained strong throughout the years. Knowing Uncle Mau, I am sure the bond of friendship he had with all his many friends was just as strong as the one I knew he had with my father. Uncle Mau thought of me and my siblings as his other children, and we all think of him as our other father. Although many years have passed since the passing of my parents, Uncle Mau always made sure that he had time to spend with the family whenever he was passing through on the way to or from his homeland of Satawal. That was just the kind of man he was.

Like most youngsters of my generation, I grew up learning stories of legendary navigators who traversed the sea lanes between the islands of Chuuk, Yap, Guam, and Saipan, most of whom I never saw for they were long gone, but none in my mind matched the feat of the late Mau Piailug. Though I am not really certain of the instruments used then to assess the success of traditional navigators, one thing I know is that none of those that I heard of had sailed vast oceans like Uncle Mau. And if altruism is another factor then I am convinced that collectively they all place Uncle Mau in a class all to himself. So many have learned and even underwent the master navigation initiation (po) like him, but no one has matched his unwavering determination and sheer guts to get to where he wanted to go. And with a clear vision of where he wanted to go and the determination to accomplish his goals, Mau Piailug stands alone by himself as the great grand master navigator of our times. God bless Uncle and may you rest peacefully in the wonderland of the Almighty One.

Take a bite out of crime

I would like to thank Police Commissioner Santiago Tudela for his efforts in cleaning up his Department of Public Safety. Since coming into office on Jan. 11, 2010, I have read in the local papers and heard talk among our community members at rosaries and other family gatherings about law enforcement being involved in criminal acts that tarnish our local police department. These actions being committed by law enforcement officers are unacceptable. They have taken oaths to uphold the law, and a lot of our people feel that they are no longer safe because of these incidents that have occurred. Real criminals are committing more crimes because some of the officers themselves are committing crimes. The real criminals feel safe, that is why we have so many repeated and unsolved cases filed every day.

To all the other police officers who are committed and are truly trying your best, please keep up the good work, we'll pray for your safety, and to our people of the CNMI, we need to get involved with our Neighborhood Watch Programs, we need to work together, we need to inform the general public that no one is "above the law," including any appointed or elected officials. Let's all take a bite out of crimes.

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios

Capital Hill, Saipan

What money?

The question we all should be asking ourselves is "how can we make money to spend?" Members of the Legislature, the governor and the municipality, sit down and make a list of what we can do to make money for a living. We cannot depend on other people's money because we will never get the amount we want. Ask yourselves: If someone ask you for money, especially in these days of hardship, are you going to give it without asking what's it for or what you're going to get in return? Naaah.

Make a list of all the thing we can do or produce to make money and find a market to sell it. Do not burden ourselves with casinos, tourisms, and all these investments that are not easy to manage. I mean it's a big investment but it is also a big headache. Why not farming, food processing (like banana chips, doni paste, jams, etc.) Something a lot of us can do and benefit from. Another investment is the college. The Northern Marianas College has been struggling to make money. Why are you not supporting its needs to make money like building a dormitory for foreign students, online classes for Tinian and Rota students or even from other places.

And government employees who have the same responsibilities should merge and work together. Start building a program that will help make our place a better place. Many departments have resources to train other employees, such as safety, how to operate equipment, landscaping, beautification, conservation, and the list goes on. And then bring in the Northern Marianas College to certify these trainees, giving them credit for skills they have learned.

Make a plan that will help make money for everyone. Share and take care.

Winnie Atalig

San Jose Tinian

ACCREDITORS

From Page 10

Rather than allowing accreditors and internal campus constituencies to bully boards and undermine their fiduciary work, trustees urgently need to exercise their rightful role. At the same time, policymakers need to hear from trustees calling for an end to a federal system that undermines the very institutional independence that has made American higher education so great.

To find out more about what's wrong with the current accreditation system, see ACTA's 2007 policy paper, "Why Accreditation Doesn't Work and What Policymakers Can Do About It".

Anne Neal is president of the American Council of Trustees and

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly sunny, showers around. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼77°



Partly sunny, showers around

▲ 86° ▼ 77°



▲86° ▼77°



▲ 86° ▼ 77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 75
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Majuro	Rain	▲ 84 ▼ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 57	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 92	▼ 74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	s ≜ 86	▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 74
London	Showers	▲ 71	₹56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76	▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	s ≜ 87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 57	▼ 48
Miami	Thundershowers	\$ ≜89	▼81
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91	▼73
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 91	₹76
Paris	Showers	▲ 71	▼ 56
Pusan	Thundershowers	80	₹74
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 94	▼ 72
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64	₹56
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼74
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 89	▼ 79

Tides Saipan Harbor 3:20 AM Today High Tide: 1.8 Feet 11:19 AM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet 6:56 PM Today High Tide: 1.7 Feet 11:28 PM Today Low Tide: 1.4 Feet

Washington, DC Partly Cloudy ▲96 ▼78

SAIPAN 170

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough southeast of okinawa stretches southwestward from 21N134E to beyond 15N130E. Divergence southeast of an upper-level low centered at 25N129e is helping to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the trough axis within an area bounded by a line from 25N130E to 20N140E to 13N130E back to 25N130E. A second surface trough near Yap and Koror extends southward from 13N136E to 6N135E. Scattered showers are found near Yap and Koror within 100 miles of a line stretching from 12N136E to 10N135E to 3N137E. A third low-level trough south of the Marianas and west of Chuuk extends southward from 10N147E to 4N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 6N to 10N from 141E to 149E. Trade-wind convergence is generating a band of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from north of Kosrae, across the Marshall islands to beyond the date line within 100 miles of a line from 7N161E to 7N169E and between 5N and 9N from 171E to the date line.

Su	nrise/Suns	Моо	nrise/Mo	
Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM	Today	3:45 PN
Friday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM	Friday	4:38 PN
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM	Saturday	5:27 PN
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM	Sunday	6:12 PN
Monday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM	Monday	6:54 PN

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May

include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- tos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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2:17 AM

3:10 AM

4:05 AM

4:58 AM

5:50 AM

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To check if contributions are i 6397 235-2440 235-8747

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- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

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235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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C09313	8:30am 9:	20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm 1:0	00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm 3:		Daily	C09602		2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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DL287	6:00am 8:		Daily	DL290		2:20pm	Daily
DL297	3:20pm 5:		Daily	DL298		3:00pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm 7:	10pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily
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Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines: OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure: ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA I	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA F	requency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipa	n		
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at
- www.nmicrimestoppers.com

(6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FBI, DPS probe Li's disappearance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Public Safety are jointly investigating the mysterious disappearance of disco club manager Qi Run Li.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong told Saipan Tribune Tuesday that the FBI has been working closely with the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau on Li's case.

Tarkong said he has received no new update in the ongoing probe on the missing Li.

He said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program has yet to receive tips regarding the whereabouts of Li, the manager for King's Disco in Garapan.

Tarkong is coordinator for the NMI Crime Stoppers Program.

Li's family has offered a \$20,000 cash reward to anyone who could provide information as to his whereabouts.

A source in the Chinese community disclosed yesterday that prior to his disappearance, Li was seen meeting with many Chinese nationals either in Garapan or China Town.

These Chinese nationals allegedly paid Li at least \$10,000 on the promise that they will obtain status if they come to Saipan prior to the federalization of the CNMI's immigration in November 2009.

Li was last seen on June 7, driving his silver Toyota Corolla that night toward the vicinity of Gold's Gym in China Town. The car was found abandoned the following day in a parking lot of a building along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau.

Bill seeks to exempt some agencies from shutdown if no govt budget is approved

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) prefiled a bill seeking to exempt departments or agencies with "essential" personnel from a government shutdown if there is no budget passed by the start of Fiscal Year 2011 on Oct. 1, 2010.

Benavente pre-filed House Bill 17-91 on July 9, and is expected to be formally introduced in today's special session.

HB 17-91 amends the Planning and Budgeting Act to allow certain essential government services to remain in operation in the absence of a FY 2010 budget law.

Benavente, a former speaker and lieutenant governor, said the Legislature is empowered to adopt a contingency plan for a government shutdown to provide services essential to the health, safety and welfare of the people without interruption.

He said the governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislature, is permitted to further designate personnel who are essential to government services.

"The purpose of this Act is to adopt a plan to provide essential government services in the event that the governor and Legislature fail to enact a budget before October 1st," Benavente said.

essential government positions include doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, other emergency responders, and tax collectors.

Also to be exempted from government shutdown are employees whose positions are 100 percent funded by the federal government.

A constitutional amendment last year removes the so-called continuing resolution budget provision and mandates the passage of a balanced budget every year.

It requires the shutdown of government offices except for the provision of services essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the These personnel who hold CNMI without a new budget.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB10-GOV-128

ADDENDUM NO. 1 07-19-10 **Tinian Health Center Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment**

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bids ("ITB") for the "Supply and Installation of Medical and Dental Equipment" has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend when bids are due when bids will open.

Amendment shall read:

Bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 16, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time August 16, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to @pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 16, 2010 and must be received no later than August 25, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, August 26, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on August 16, 2010

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Ms. Nerissa Benavente, Project Coordinator at 664-2374 or by fax at 664-2408.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor Commonwealth of the Northern

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director Mariana Islands Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE

In accordance with Public Law 5-33, Section 4(b) (3) the Public Purpose Land Exchange Authorization Act, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to enter into an exchange agreement to certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the exchange of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 5-33, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The purposed of the land exchange is to acquire a private property for ponding basin. The private property is described as Lot No. 446NEW-F-3, containing an area of 6,420 square meters, more or less, situated in As Lito, Saipan.
- The public land to be exchange is described as Lot No. 050 L 01, containing an area of 5,923 square meters more or less, located in Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. The private property is owned by Mr. Juan C. Tenorio a resident of As Lito,
- iv. A copy of the proposed land exchange agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 5, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN MA'ATULAIKAN TANO' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi halom I Lai Publiku 5-33 Seksiona 4 (b)(3), Public Purpose Land Exchange Act, I Depattamenton I Tano' Publiku guini ha nå'i notisia i intension-ña para u ma'atulaikan pumalu na tano' publiku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi manentiresåo na petsona siha gi halom I publiku henerå siña munna hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i propositu siha para I uma'atulaikan I tano' publiku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen Lai Publiku 5-33, pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapuplika.

- I maproponen i ma'atulaikan tano' para uma'chule I tano' private para chalan publiku. I diskripsion I tineteka na tano' komo Lot No. 446NEW-F-3, sais mit kuatro sento benti i åria 6,420 square meter, potlumenus mås, yan, gaige giya As Lito, Saipan.
- ii. I diskripsion i tano' publiku Lot No. 050 L 01, kinensisite i åria 5,923 square meters, potlumenus må, gaige giya Obyan, Saipan.
- iii. I dwennon tano' si Mr. Juan C. Tenorio, residenten As Lito, Saipan.
- iv. I kopian a maproponen i ma'atulaikan tano' siña machule' gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Publiku, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan.
- I Secretarian i Depattamenton Tano' Publiku para hu aksepta I tinigi'i opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen i mapropone na ma'atulakan tano' publiku antes osino gi dia August 5, 2010 gi Depattamenton Tano'.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL SIIWELIL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Alléghúl Toulap 5-33 Section 4 (b)(3), Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe siiwel eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóóka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghighiir, aweewe, aingiingi reel pomwol siiwel yeel. Alléghú Toulap ye 5-3 Section 4 (b)(3) e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- Pomwol siiwelil falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 446NEW-F-3, eyoor olongaras faabwúghúw ruwigh (6,420 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo As Lito, Seipél. Tilighial buley yeel nge, eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap ngáre óubwe ghuley fischey.
- Falúweer toulap yeel nge Lot No. 050 L 01, eyoor limangaras tiwabwúghúl ruwigh me eluuw Lot 050 L 01 lapel falúw ye, elo Obyan, Seipél.
- iii. Mr. Juan C. Tenrio elollo As Lito, Seipél, yaal falúw ye ebwe siiwel ngale falúweer toulap.
- iv. Tilghial siiwel yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel mwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Ioll Tuturam, Seipel.
- Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal August 5, 2010, mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipé.

Business

Jobless benefits clear Senate hurdle by one vote

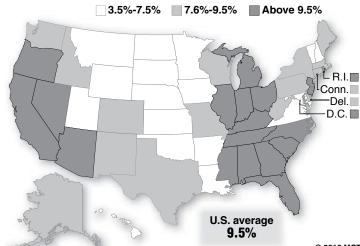
WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats broke through ter Tuesday and pressed to restart jobless benefits for 2 1/2 million Americans still unable to find work in the frail national economic recovery. The Democrats were victorious by the single vote of a new senator sworn in only moments earlier.

Senators voted 60-40 to move ahead on the bill, clearing the way for a final vote in the chamber on Wednesday.

The recovery from the nation's long and deep recession has produced relatively few new jobs so far, and millions of people's unemployment benefits began running out seven weeks ago as Congress bogged down in an impasse over whether the \$34 billion cost of a fresh extension of

State of joblessness

a stubborn Republican filibus- Congress is finally poised to extend federal unemployment benefits. Unemployment rate, by state, June 2010:



NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale

benefits should be paid for with budget cuts or be added to the \$13 trillion national debt.

Democrats emphasized the

© 2010 MCT Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Graphic: Pat Carr plight of the unemployed and argued that putting money in the

pockets of jobless families would

also boost economic revival.

"This bill is about jobs because unemployment insurance goes to people who will spend it immediately," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. "That would increase economic demand. And that would help support our fragile economic recovery."

But the numbers are far smaller than last year's \$862 billion stimulus legislation. Republicans have blocked Democratic add-ons, such as aid to state governments.

"It's too small to have any noticeable impact on the economy's growth rate," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "But the benefits do provide an important safety net for people during these difficult economic times."

The economy has added 882,000 jobs so far this year-

peated 24-hour extensions to

keep the cap in place, as long as

the company monitors the well

Meanwhile, the end game

in the three-month crisis ap-

peared to be drawing closer,

with BP vice president Kent

Wells saying the drilling of the

relief well-necessary to per-

manently plug up the well—is

on track. He said crews hope to

drill sideways into the blown-

out well and intercept it at the

At that point, they will begin

the kill procedure—pumping

mud and cement into the hole

deep underground to seal it up

once and for all. BP said that

scrupulously.

end of July.

but many of those were only temporary positions as the federal government geared up to conduct the U.S. Census.

Many Republicans have voted in the past for deficitfinanced benefits extensionincluding twice under the most recent Bush administration. But with the deficit well in excess of \$1 trillion, they now say it should be paid for with cuts elsewhere in the \$3.7 trillion federal budget.

"We've repeatedly voted for similar bills in the past. And we are ready to support one now," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

drug aid needs better oversight

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Barack Obama's administration pledged better accounting of its billion-dollar program to help Mexico and Central America fight the drug war, chastened by a congressional report describing such slow implementation that the Mexican government has had to buy some equipment on its own while waiting for funds. Nine percent of the \$1.6 billion promised under the Merida Initiative from 2008 to 2010 has been spent, according to the report from the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress. The report said the State Department has no effective way to measure whether the programs are making a difference in the drug war, three years after then-President George W. Bush first launched the initiative during a summit with Mexican President Felipe Calderon in the Yucatan Peninsula city of Merida.

GAO report: Mexico

Apple fiscal 3Q net income jumps 78 percent

SEATTLE (AP)—Apple Inc. blew past expectations with its latest quarterly report on Tuesday, selling almost as many of its new iPad tablets as it sold Mac computers. Apple also gave higher revenue guidance than Wall Street was expecting, something the company rarely does. Investors sent shares up in after-hours trading. Apple said net income rose 78 percent to \$3.25 billion, or \$3.51 per share, from \$1.8 billion, or \$2.01 per share a year ago. Revenue for the April-to-June period rose 61 percent from last year to \$15.7 billion, making it the company's highest quarterly revenue ever, even beating the latest holiday season. That's better than Wall Street predicted. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters had forecast net income of \$3.11 per share on \$14.7 billion in revenue.

ASIAN MARKETS AUSTRALIA 4,424.10 Up 5.40 (+0.12%) HONG KONG JAKARTA 20,375.48 Up 110.89 (+0.55%) 3,002.12 Up 6.68 (+0.22%) TOKYO K. LUMPUR 9,285.66 Down 14.80 (-0.16%) SINGAPORE MAÑILA BANGKOK SEOUL LEADING **INDICATORS** DOW 10,229.96 +75.53 NASDAQ 2,222.49 +24.26 S&P 1,083.48 +12.23

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar

British Pound

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Renmbi

Hong Kong Dollar

Indonesian Rupiah

Malaysian Ringgit

New Zealand Dollar

Philippine Peso

Singapore Dollar

South Korean Won

Swiss Franc

Taiwan Dollar

Thailand Baht

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen

Euro

1.1515

0.6568

1.0545

6.7787

0.7727

47.125

9063.75

86.739

3.2255

1.4168

46.425

1.3772

1215.65

1.055

32.145

32.295

Spill chief says the capped well is holding up cure the money it needs to bolster its cash reserves to pay

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The government's oil spill chief tried to tamp down fears Tuesday that BP's capped well is buckling under the pressure, saving that seepage detected along the seafloor less than two miles away is coming from an older well no longer in production.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen also said at least five leaks have been discovered around the well machinery, but he dismissed them as "very small drips"—"not unlike an oil leak you might have in your car."

NEW YORK (AP)—BP PLC is moving quickly to sepay for the spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Just weeks after promising to raise \$10 billion by selling assets, the British oil company said Tuesday it will sell properties in the U.S., Canada and Egypt to Apache Corp. for \$7 billion.

At least part of the proceeds will go toward a \$20 billion fund that BP agreed to last month under pressure from the Obama administration. The fund will help pay cleanup costs and damages from the spill.

The Apache deal follows other actions BP has taken to

costs that analysts have said could rise to \$100 billion. It reduced capital spending by about \$2 billion and suspended dividend payments of about \$10.6 billion for this year.

Over the past few days, since a 75-ton cap was placed over the well to keep the oil bottled up inside, BP and government engineers have been watching closely to see whether the well would hold tight or show signs of rupturing under the pressure. A rupture could cause a bigger and harder-to-

Allen has granted BP re-

control disaster.

stage could take anywhere from five days to a couple of weeks. **Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Closing Date: August 13, 2010 Opening Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions (s)	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-002-1	Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager (DM)	1	\$60,000 to \$75,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan
10-005-2	Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation Supervisor Saipan) ("0S")	ns 1	\$55,000 to \$ 65,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-029	Wastewater Treatment Level 2 Certific	ed 2	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-030	Wastewater Collection Level 2 Certifie	d 2	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-031	Water Treatment Level 1 Certified	1	\$30,000 To \$40,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water Section, Rota
10-032	Water Distribution Level 2 Certified	1	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water Section, Rota

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Nation

Emotional toll for some survivors of oil rig blast

MYRTLE GROVE, La. cause the floor was blue and I (AP)—A boom from the speakers at church was all it took to send Paula Walker back to that moment of horror on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

"I freaked out," Walker said. "I huddled up on the pew and wouldn't put my feet down bethought it was the water."

Members of the congregation rushed to her side and desperately tried to convince the 56-year-old laundry worker that she wasn't back on the rig. She says she had a similar flashback when a car backfired near her home.

The April 20 explosion and fire killed 11 co-workers. Walker got off the rig with just some bruises but, like several other survivors, says she's haunted by memories of that night. Although the environmental toll has dominated headlines, survivors say they suffer a more per-

retired in June. The

"What's in Elena

Kagan's heart is that

of a good person who

adopts a philosophy I

disagree with," Gra-

ham said. "She will

serve this nation hon-

orably, and it would

vote was 13-6.

sonal—and private—burden.

"When you go to sleep, you wake up crying. You wake up with nightmares, thinking the building is exploding," said Walker, who worked on the rig for three years and was in her room watching TV when the blowout occurred.

Judiciary panel OKs Elena Kagan for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pushing toward an election-year Supreme Court confirmation vote, a polarized Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday approved Elena Kagan to be the fourth female justice. Just one Republican joined Democrats to approve Kagan's nomination and send it to the full Senate, where she's expected to win confirmation within weeks.

"Elena Kagan will be con-

firmed," predicted Sen. Pat- Justice John Paul Stevens, who rick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary chairman. "She will go on the U.S. Su-

preme Court."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., broke with his party to cast the sole GOP "ves" vote on President Obama's nominee to succeed



Kagan

have chosen, but the person who did choose, President Obama, I think chose wisely.'

At the White House, Obama hailed the vote as a "bipartisan affirmation of her strong performance" in confirmation hearings, and said Kagan would be "a fair and impartial" justice who understands the impact of Supreme Court decisions on everyday people's lives.

ACROSS THE NATION

United flight hits heavy turbulence; 30 injured

DENVER (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration says 30 people were injured—one critically—after a United Airlines jetliner headed for Los Angeles hit heavy turbulence and was diverted to Denver. The flight originated at Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C. It landed safely at Denver International Airport around 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, and was met by medical crews. FAA spokesman Ian Gregor in Los Angeles says 26 passengers and four crew members were injured. He says one person was critically hurt, but released no further details. Denver Health Medical Center spokeswoman Dee Martinez says 21 people have been transported

to five area hospitals. Most of them have moderate injuries to the head, neck or back. United Airlines spokeswoman Megan McCarthy says Flight 967 was carrying 255 passengers and 10 crew members. She says the crew decided to be safe and land in Denver to tend to the injured.

Mich. woman surprised to find marijuana in mail BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP,

Mich. (AP)—Bills, catalogs, junk mail—marijuana? Indeed, police say a surprise 2-pound package of marijuana arrived in the mail last week at one elderly woman's home in southern Michigan's Blackman Township, which is about 75 miles west of Detroit. The woman called police. Detectives don't know who sent the weed. They learned that the Arizona return address on the package was bogus. Police say the pot is worth about \$2,400. Deputy Director Jon Johnston told The Jackson Citizen Patriot that the marijuana either was sent to the woman's home by mistake or someone planned to snatch it from the mailbox before she checked. The pot will be destroyed.

not have been someone I would

Racial tensions roil NC school board; 19 arrests

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Protesters and police scuffled Tuesday at a school board meeting in North Carolina over claims that a new busing system would resegregate schools, roiling racial tensions reminiscent of the 1960s. Nineteen people were

arrested, including the head of state NAACP chapter who was banned from the meeting after a trespassing arrest at a June school board gathering. "We know that our cause is right," Barber said shortly before police put plastic handcuffs on his wrists before the meeting started. Inside, more than a dozen demonstrators disrupted the meeting by gathering around a podium, chanting and singing against the board's policies. After several minutes, Raleigh police intervened and asked them to leave. When they refused, the officers grabbed arms and tried to arrest the protesters. One child was caught in the pushing and shoving, as was school board member Keith Sutton, who was nearly arrested before authorities realized who he was.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Closing Date: August 19, 2010

g Date: Thursda	y, July 15, 2	010	Closing Date: August 05, 2010			
. Position Title Positions (s)		*Salary	Contract	Location		
Grants Officer	1	\$35,000 to \$49,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan		
Grants Specialist	1	\$33,000 to \$46,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan		
Engineer	3	\$43,000 To \$60,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan		
Engineer	2	\$33,000 To \$50,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan		
Senior Engineer	2	\$75,000 To \$90,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water and Wastewater Divisions, Saipan		
	Position Title Grants Officer Grants Specialist Engineer Engineer	Position TitlePositions (s)Grants Officer1Grants Specialist1Engineer3Engineer2	Grants Officer 1 \$35,000 to \$49,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified Grants Specialist 1 \$33,000 to \$46,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified Engineer 3 \$43,000 To \$60,000 per year un-graded; un-classified Engineer 2 \$33,000 To \$50,000 per year un-graded; un-classified Senior Engineer 2 \$75,000 To \$90,000 per year	Position TitlePositions (s)*SalaryContractGrants Officer1\$35,000 to \$49,000 per year; un-graded, un-classifiedTwo yearsGrants Specialist1\$33,000 to \$46,000 per year; un-graded, un-classifiedTwo yearsEngineer3\$43,000 To \$60,000 per year un-graded; un-classifiedTwo YearsEngineer2\$33,000 To \$50,000 per year un-graded; un-classifiedTwo YearsSenior Engineer2\$75,000 To \$90,000 per yearTwo Years		

Opening Date: Thursday, July 20, 2010

Position Title JVA NO. Positions (s) **Contract** Location 10-038 Internal Auditor \$30,000 To \$40,000 per year Chief Financial Officer Two Years un-graded; un-classified Divisions, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Petition seeks to have wolves howl across US

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Tens increased livestock killings and of thousands of gray wolves would be returned to the woods of New England, the mountains of California, the wide open Great Plains and the desert West under a scientific petition filed Tuesday with the federal government.

The predators were poisoned and trapped to near-extermination in the United States last century, but have since clawed their way back to some of the most remote wilderness in the lower 48 states.

That recovery was boosted in the 1990s by the reintroduction of 66 wolves in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Yet as those first packs have flourished, declining big game herds have drawn sharp backlash from ranchers, hunters and officials in the Northern Rockies.

But biologists with the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity want to expand that recovery across the country. A few isolated pockets of wolves, they say, are not enough.

"If the gray wolf is listed as endangered, it should be recovered in all significant portions of its range, not just fragments," said Michael Robinson, who authored the petition. Robinson said the animals occupy less than 5 percent of their historic range in the lower 48 states.

DANILOT AGUILAR F0198 Attorney at Law P.O. Box 505301 First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg. Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950 TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801 FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINACIAL SAIPAN, INC. **CIVIL CAS NO. 08-0271** FOURTH AMENDED ANDRESINA BENAVENTE.

Defendant

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 13, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July, 15 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant. Andresina Benavente in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2053/89, the original of which was recorded on 02 February as 1989, as Document No. 89-352, at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said property is located in As Perdido Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

E.A. 216-5-1, (formerly part of E.A. 216-5, which was part of E.A. 216), as more

<u>Date, Time and Place of Sale.</u> The sale will be held on July 29, 2010 at he hour 10:00 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.

<u>Inspection of Property.</u> It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

<u>Warranties and Covenants.</u> All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.

- a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the
- b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
- Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
- d. <u>Disputes.</u> The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

- a. <u>Deposit</u>. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages,
- and will again offer the property for sale.

 b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at
- auction.

 Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice

DATED, this 19th day of July, 2010:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR By: /s/ DANILO T. AGUILAR Auctioneer

Asia

WORST TOLL IN A DECADE

China flooding kills 701

BEIJING (AP)—Flooding this year has killed 701 people, left 347 missing and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage, the worst toll across the board that China has seen in a decade, a senior Chinese official said Wednesday.

Three-quarters of China's provinces have been hit by flooding and 25 rivers have seen record-high water levels, Liu Ning, general secretary of the government's flood prevention agency, told a news conference.

Aside from the 701 dead and 347 missing, 645,000 houses were toppled and overall damage totaled 142.2 billion yuan. All the figures, Liu said, were the highest China had seen since 2000.

With the flood season far from over, this year is shaping up to be one of the most devastating since 1998, which was the worst in 50 years.

Flooding, particularly along the Yangtze River Basin, has overwhelmed reservoirs, swamped towns and cities, and broken off hillsides causing landslides that have smothered communities.

Soldiers used bulldozers to plow through debris Tuesday in search of survivors from separate landslides in Sichuan and Shaanxi



In this July 19, 2010 photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, people cross the flooded street by boat in Quxian, southwest China's Sichuan province.

provinces, while workers in other parts of the country scrambled to drain overflowing reservoirs and pile up sandbags to prevent further flooding, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Three people were killed late Sunday night by landslides in Lingao county in Shaanxi province that also left 17 missing, Xinhua reported. In all, flooding and landslides from rain-soaked hillsides in Shaanxi have killed 37 and left another 97 missing.

rescuers searched for 13 missing people after a landslide hit Xujiaping Village on Tuesday morning, burying homes and blocking roads, Xinhua reported.

Xinhua and state broadcaster China Central Television reported the Three Gorges Dam was dealing with its highest water levels ever when a flood crest passed the dam Tuesday morning.

The government cited flood control along the Yangtze as one of the main reasons for the \$23 billion dam project that forced the In nearby Sichuan province, relocation of 1.4 million people.

Clinton, Gates visit DMZ dividing 2 Koreas

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)— Standing at the spot that divides North and South Korea, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged North Korea on Wednesday to turn away from the isolation that has left its people suffering.

Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates paid a rare visit on a rainy day to the heavily fortified border dividing the

two Koreas—a symbolic trip four months after the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on the North.

Forty-six South Korean sailors were killed when the Cheonan exploded in the waters near the Koreas' western maritime border. An international team of investigators pinned the blast on a torpedo fired from a North Korean submarine—the worst military attack on South Korea since the 1950-'53 Korean War. Sixty years after the fighting

began, the peninsula remains divided in a state of war because the conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. Hundreds of thousands of troops stand ready on both sides of the 3-mile-deep demilitarized zone, making it one of the most heavily guarded borders in the world.

ASIAN BRIEFS

ASEAN urges Myanmar to hold free, fair election

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)— Southeast Asian foreign ministers gave Myanmar's militaryrun government an "earful" while demanding that it hold free and fair elections—a rare stand by the cautious group often accused of overlooking rights abuses in member nations. Foreign ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations ended their annual meeting Tuesday in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, where they tackled a diverse agenda—from setting up a European-style economic community by 2015 to bolstering ties with the West and regional powers China, Japan and India. But at a dinner on the eve of the conference, Myanmar took center stage as diplomats vented their concerns about planned elections, which the junta has said will be held this year,

without giving a date.

NATO says 4 dead in shooting at training range

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— Two American civilians and two shooting on a northern Afghan military base Tuesday, NATO said. An Afghan soldier who trained others at the base outside Mazar-e-Sharif started shooting during a weapons exercise, the international military coalition said in a statement. The shooter was one of those killed, and it was not immediately clear if he had been targeting someone or if bullets had gone astray. It also was not clear how many people fired weapons. NATO and Afghan forces are jointly investigating, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said. There were no immediate details on the U.S. civilians, but contractors commonly work as trainers at such bases.

Ex-NKorean spy who blew up jetliner visits Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A former North Korean spy who blew up a South Afghan soldiers were killed in a Korean jetliner more than 20 years ago arrived in Japan on Tuesday to meet the families of Japanese kidnapped by the reclusive regime to train its agents, including one she says coached her on Japanese culture. Kim Hyon-hui was convicted in South Korea of bombing a Korean Air jet in a 1987 act of sabotage that killed all 115 people aboard, and was sentenced to death. Even while on trial, she won admirers for her classic good looks. She was eventually pardoned and became a best-selling author, writing books about her time as a spy. She met Tuesday with relatives of Yaeko Taguchi, who was kidnapped from Tokyo in 1978 when he was 22.

World

Spain nixes burqa ban for now

MADRID (AP)—Spain's Parliament on Tuesday rejected a proposal to ban women from wearing in public places Islamic veils that reveal only the eyes.

However, the Socialist government has said it favors including a ban on people wearing burqas in government buildings in an upcoming bill on religious issues to be debated after parliament's summer vacation break.

Following a lower chamber debate, 183 lawmakers opposed the ban, 162 voted for it and two abstained.

The nonbinding proposal had been put forward by the leading opposition Popular

Party, which portrayed it as a measure in support of women's rights. The ruling Socialist Party opposed the ban.

"It is very difficult to understand how it is that our troops are defending liberty in Afghanistan and the government doesn't have the courage to do so here, in Spain," said opposition spokeswoman Soraya Saenz de Santamaria in Parliament.

The opposition's proposal followed discussions in several other European countries on possibly banning face veils that show only a woman's eyes, or their eyes through a knitted mesh.

Nations like France, Belgium and Switzerland have struggled to balance their national identities with growing Muslim populations with cultural practices that clash with their own

In Spain, the PP had put forward the proposal "in defense of the dignity and equality of all women" and to prevent Muslim women from being forced into wearing unwanted garments such as veils by their husbands.

Some analysts had interpreted the proposal as an opposition ploy to build their party's strength amid the economic turmoil and dismal growth prospects that have dogged the government of Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Ex-MI5 spy chief: No link between Iraq and 9/11

LONDON (AP)—The war in Iraq led to a loss of focus on the threat from al-Qaida, emboldened the group's leader Osama bin Laden, and helped to breed a generation of homegrown terrorists, Britain's former domestic spy chief told an inquiry Tuesday.

Making the sharpest criticism so far aired in Britain's inquiry into mistakes made in the Iraq war, Eliza Manningham-Buller, director of the MI5 agency between 2002 and 2007, said Britain's government paid little attention to warnings that the war would fuel domestic terrorism.

Manningham-Buller also said Iraq had posed little threat before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, and insisted there was no evidence of a link between former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"There was no credible intelligence to suggest that connection and that was the judgment, I might say, of the CIA," she told the inquiry. "It was not a judgment that found favor with some parts of the American machine."

Cuba dissidents told Spain exile muddles US asylum

HAVANA (AP)—The United States appears to have modified a pledge to take in freed Cuban political prisoners, telling their relatives that it will be more difficult for them to apply for asylum if they first accept a Church-brokered deal to trade jail for exile in Spain.

The warnings, confirmed by the family members of six imprisoned dissidents, come at a delicate time and could complicate the releases of 52 activists, journalists and opposition leaders arrested in a 2003 crackdown.

Under a deal brokered by Cuban Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Ortega earlier this month, the communist government has already freed 11 political prisoners and flown them to Madrid. Nine others

have accepted the offer and are expected to arrive in coming days.

The rest of the jailed dissidents have either refused to go, or have not yet been contacted by Church officials. The Church has referred to exile in Spain as an "option," but has not specified what will happen to those who refuse to leave the country.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hundreds of dead penguins dot **Brazil's beaches** SAO PAULO (AP)—Hun-

dreds of penguins that apparently starved to death are washing up on the beaches of Brazil, worrying scientists who are still investigating what's causing them to die. About 500 of the black-and-white birds have been found just in the last 10 days on Peruibe, Praia Grande and Itanhaem beaches in Sao Paulo state, said Thiago do Nascimento, a biologist at the Peruibe Aquarium. Most were Magellan penguins migrating north from Argentina, Chile and the Falkland Islands in search of food in warmer waters. Many are not finding it: Autopsies done on several birds revealed their stomachs were entirely empty—indicating they likely starved to death, Nascimento said. Scientists are investigating whether strong currents and colder-than-normal waters have hurt populations of the species that make up the penguins' diet, or whether human activity may be playing a role.

Chavez: Government to obtain minority TV share

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday that his government will obtain a minority ownership share in Globovision, raising the stakes in his longrunning battle with Venezuela's sole remaining opposition television station. Chavez said the authorities have determined that 25.8 percent of shares in Globovision belong to one of the owners of the Banco Federal, which the government took over last month citing financial problems and irregularities. Chavez said the shares of Nelson Mezerhane will be seized by the government as it covers the deposits of bank customers. With that minority ownership stake, the government will have a right to name a board member of Globovision, Chavez said. "We're joining the business," he said.

It's a bird. It's a plane. No. It's... a donkey

MOSCOW (AP)—Authorities in Russia are opening an animal cruelty probe into a weekend stunt on a beach in southern Russia in which a donkey parasailed high over the surf. Amateur video footage showed men attaching a parasail harness to the trembling mule. The Englishlanguage Kremlin news channel Russia Today reported that sunbathers were distressed at the sight of the flying donkey, which brayed in fear as it glided above the bay for half an hour. Russia Today reported the donkey was shell-shocked but survived. Reports said the donkey flight was a promotional stunt. Employees of a leisure firm in the village of Golubitskaya on the Azov Sea could face two years in prison if they are charged and convicted of animal cruelty.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010 **17**

Environment



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coastal Resources Management Office intern Erik Basa.

Back for the second time

By ERIK BASA

Hafa Adai and Tirow, My name is Erik Basa. I recently graduated with an associate degree in Computer Applications and now I'm pursuing a bachelors' degree in Elementary Education at the Northern Marianas College. This fall marks my third year at NMC. Being a college student for quite some time now, I have been developing a routine of having to learn and understand vital information. But after years of gaining knowledge and understanding, I feel that the time has come for me to give back to the community. And what would be more rewarding than sharing the information with those who are not aware? My goal for this summer is to gain information on various hazards that continue to harm our coastal environment and what can we do as individuals or as a community to prevent these hazards from occurring. I firmly believe that by doing so, we can guarantee that our future generations will be able to enjoy and cherish the resources that our beautiful island has to offer.

This summer I decided to apply for an internship position at the Coastal Resources Management Office. My reason for applying was based on my previous experience with CRM.

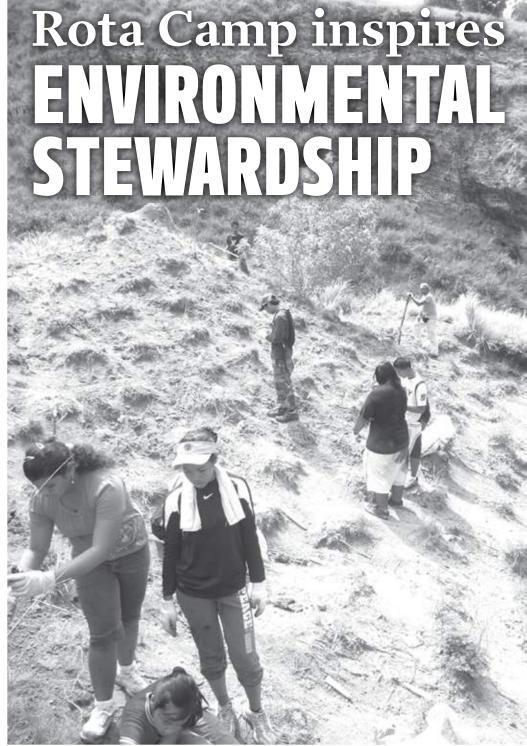
Last summer, I was the Geographic Information System intern under the GIS Coordinator, Julie Ann D. Delos-Reyes. Being selected to be a part of the program was a great privilege. The internship gave me the opportunity to showcase the knowledge that I gained from school and apply it in the work force. I assisted my mentor in a special project, which was to create, design and implement a database system for all the current water sport establishments in the CNMI. Aside from that, I also had the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities such as reef flat surveys, un-

derwater archeology training, beach profiling, and monitoring the lagoons and protected areas. The internship also introduced me to an amazing group of individuals at CRMO who are motivated in protecting our environment. They inspired me to exercise an environmentally friendly attitude toward our beautiful island.

I'm excited that I was given another opportunity to return and gain more knowledge and experience in the environmental field. This year I will be focusing on more intermediate GIS projects. My first assignment will be to orthorectify aerial photos of 1987 and 1992, using an imaging software, ERDAS IMAGINE. The objective is to identify the land use change over time. My next task will be to assist in updating the GIS page on the CRM website. My job is to focus on gathering CRM GIS data and metadata, to verify the coordinate system, and design a page layout. And lastly, I will be assisting the Non Point Source coordinator with the Boater's webpage.

Three weeks into the internship I've assisted the Marine Monitoring Team with the reef flat survey. I also had the opportunity to participate in the 4th of July Parade; CRMO entered the parade to promote environmental awareness. And my most recent involvement was the Susupe Beach Park cleanup that was coordinated by Rep. Ralph Demapan, with the assistance of the CRMO staff.

I have gained much experience and knowledge about the importance of protecting and preserving our coastal resources. But there is still a lot to learn, and with only seven weeks left to spare, I'm prepared to take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity and learn as much as I can. All I know is that by the end of each day, the things I've learned or experienced will only benefit me, both physically and mentally.



Planting grass seedlings at Talakhaya revegetation site

arrying on a five-year tradition of instilling a sense of stewardship in Rota's pristine environment, community leaders and CNMI's natural resource agencies hosted the 2010 Rota Eco Camp this past week.

Over three days about 30 students and group leaders explored I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary, Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve and Talakhaya Watershed. Biologists and field experts guided the educational experiences at the conservation areas.

At I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary students learned about plants and birds as they hiked to a perch to view the sanctuary and its inhabitants. There they learned about how birds disperse seeds to re-vegetate forests, and how intact forests provide habitat and soil stability.

In Talakhaya Watershedpart of the Sabana Conservation Area—students visited with volunteers planting grass seedlings to reduce soil erosion and create wildlife habitat. The



students climbed ropes down to Phase I of the re-vegetation project and planted their own seedlings. Group leaders involved in the Rota Eco Camp since its inception say these hands-on

activities help students build a sense of ownership in the area and help impart the importance of conservation.

Students took a boat to Coral

Gardens within Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve to observe the marine life, equipped with fish identification cards. This portion of the camp helped students make the connection between land and ocean resources, and helped them better understand the role of humans in environmental health and degradation. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs hosted a coconut weaving workshop for students after the field trip.

As part of ongoing efforts to measure the effectiveness of the camp to educate and inspire students, pre and post surveys were distributed to participants. Last year's camp provided the first data set for this purpose. Results suggest a significant increase in learning.

The camp closed with a lunch ceremony and remarks from Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and NMC Rota Program Coordinator Martin Mendiola. Afterward students gathered at the NMC Rota campus to watch the environmental film Black Wave. The film about the 20-year legacy of the Exxon Valdez oil spill was also played on Saipan as part of the First Friday Films series at American Memorial Park.

The Eco Camp is funded through a grant from the Coral Reef Initiative. It is made possible through the collaboration of the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management Office, the Rota Mayor's Office and the Rota offices of the Northern Marianas College, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Rota Health Center, Rubin Rota Scuba Center and the Rota Municipal Council. (PR)

Ocean predator subject of next Friday Film event

Queue the shark music and mark your calendars for the 31time international award winning documentary Sharkwater. The second installment of First Friday Films will feature a free showing of the film on Aug 6, 7pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center.

Sharkwater offers a unique insight of the important role sharks play in our oceans. Director Rob Stewart addresses how the fear of sharks has led to their mismanagement and how the killing of sharks is damaging to ocean ecosystems and ultimately to humans.

This film along with every other "First Friday Film" is free and open to the public. Any further information can be found at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan. blogspot.com. (PR)

Life & Style



NEW YORK (AP)—The bisque is back.

The soup stand that inspired the Soup Nazi episode on "Seinfeld" reopened in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday, six years after its famously brusque owner, Al Yeganeh, shut it down and licensed his recipes to a franchising company.

More than 100 people were waiting in line for the noon reopening of the tiny storefront, including a few regulars who remembered the days when Yeganeh ladled broth and imposed discipline from behind the cramped counter.

Much about the shop was the same as in the days before "Seinfeld" made the place famous, including its strict ordering rules, now posted in nine languages.

"THE LINE MUST BE KEPT MOVING. Pick the soup you want! Have your money ready! Move to the extreme left after ordering!"

But some things are different.

Yeganeh neither owns nor operates the store now. Like other Original SoupMan stores around the country, it is a franchise, although company Presi-

dent Robert Bertrand said Yeganeh remains involved in the business.

"He's not going back there to dish out the soup, but he is still the heart of the company," Bertrand said. "He still has a key. He handpicked the operator. His soups are his babies."

There is even a webcam that allows Yeganeh to keep tabs on the place during business hours, Bertrand said.

Soup in Yeganeh's kitchen used to be made on the spot, with ingredients so fresh and abundant, the line often stretched around the corner. Now, they are produced in a commercial kitchen and available frozen in select grocery stores.

They are also more expensive: An extra-large cup of the crab bisque costs \$20. A small cup costs \$7. But to some, the soup is splurge-worthy.

"This line, this is normal," said longtime Hell's Kitchen resident Larry Cappelli, who arrived an hour early in hopes of getting his first taste of the bisque in six years. "It's awesome. I've waited in the rain. In the snow. It's worth it." Yeganeh, who has become media shy in recent years, stayed away from the grand reopening.

In past interviews, he has dismissed the "Seinfeld" episode as an unfair character assassination, bristled at what he calls the N-word and ridiculed Jerry Seinfeld as "an idiot clown."

For this reason, customers at the Original SoupMan shouldn't expect anyone to shout "No soup for you!" if they don't move left after ordering.

Indeed, some longtime fans of Yeganeh said the whole "Nazi" thing was overblown.

"The guy worked like a dog. He didn't charge enough for the soup. It was like, \$2.50, a cup when he started," recalled Mark Hoffman, whose company manages a building in the neighborhood. "And he was always a nice guy. Humble."

As for Yeganeh's no-show at the launch, Bertrand said it wasn't a surprise.

"That's his mystique. But I wouldn't be surprised if he was watching from a window up there," he said, pointing at an apartment building across the street.

Aniston's previous sitcom attempts include role in 'Muddling Through'

By RICH HELDENFELS

Q: I say that Jennifer Aniston was in a sitcom before she was in "Friends." Don't remember the name but she played the younger sister whose mother ran a cafe and had shot her husband.

POP CULTURE Q&A

A: Aniston made several tries at TV comedy before "Friends" hit in September 1994. The show you remember aired on CBS in the summer of '94 and was called "Muddling Through." Stephanie Hodge starred as Connie Drego, a woman working at her family's truck stop after serving three years in prison for shooting her husband in the backside. But Aniston played Drego's older daughter; Aimee Brooks played the younger one.

Q: Do you have any info on the long-haired, bearded actor Michael Riley? I think he's great. He made a TV movie with Tracy Nelson.

A: The Canadian actor did indeed work with Nelson in the 2004 TV-

movie "Her Perfect Spouse." I suspect you know him as Dr. Tom on "Being Erica," the Canadian-made time-travel ries airing on SOAPnet. He is 48 years old and has also appeared in "Flashpoint," "Murdoch Mysteries," "1-800-Missing" and other series, as well as in movies like "The Interrogation of Michael Crowe," "Amistad" and "French Kiss." His 2007 movie, "St. Urbain's Horseman," recently came out on DVD.

nual People's Choice Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, January 9, 2007.

A: This brings & Critics Web site our first question,

Jennifer Aniston attends the 33rd An-

The Monsters & Critics Web site recently dubbed him a master of disguise for the way he immerses himself in characters: "He actually assumes them, through wardrobe, makeup, accent, delivery, and carriage, whatever he can, to see if the public buys what he's selling."

Q: I watched a TV show on TNN for years, called "Club Dance." Got to know the dancers like they were family. Then the show was gone. Do you know anything about it or the people? Is there a CD or DVD out on them? Have there ever been any reunions that you know about? I would appreciate hearing anything about the show.

A: The series aired on the old The Nashville Network from 1991 to 1999, with folks of various ages and sizes dancing to country hits. Shelley Mangrum hosted and Phil Campbell

was the bartender (strictly soda-pop, according to "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows"). As TNN was sold, retooled and finally turned into Spike TV, country-themed shows went byebye. I do not know of a CD or DVD tied to the show but you can find some old clips on YouTube. And, if you Google "Club Dance TNN," you will find some sites devoted to the show.

Q: I am trying to find four madefor-TV movies after "Murder, She Wrote" went off the air and can't seem to find them. The last episode was in May 1996 and the four movies ran between November 1997 and May 2003. Can you help me find them?

A: My best advice is to wait a bit. The way most TV series are released—when they are released in their entirety, which doesn't always happen—is that sequel movies come out after the complete series has gone to DVD. Universal released the 11th season of the show's 12 seasons in

February. Amazon.com has been taking orders for a box of the 12th and final season, but I have not seen a

release date.

Q: I recently bought "Joey: The Complete First Season" online. I love the show. I thought it ran for two seasons but cannot find the other for sale. Was there a second season and, if so, was it released to DVD and, if so, where can I buy a copy?

A: This brings us full circle from our first question, also about a former "Friends" star. "Joey," the "Friends" spin-off starring Matt LeBlanc, ran for two seasons in 2004-06, although some of the second season never aired on NBC. The second season was released on DVD a couple of years ago—but, according to TVShowsonDVD. com, through the Canadian division of Warner Home Video. And you can order it online through the Canadian version of Amazon.com, which is (watch the last of the Web address carefully) http://www.amazon.ca.

Do you have a question or comment about movies, TV and other popular culture? Write to rheldenfels@ thebeaconjournal.com or the Akron Beacon Journal, 44 E. Exchange St., Akron, OH 44309. Please mark the note for Mailbag and do not phone in questions. Letters may be edited. Individual replies cannot be guaranteed.

NY stolen art fight ends in \$19 million settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—A 12-year dispute that illustrated the difficulty of proving art was stolen by Nazis in World War II ended Tuesday with an agreement that a 1912 oil painting entitled "Portrait of Wally" will be returned to a Vienna museum and displayed with an acknowledgement that it was stolen from a Jewish art dealer by a Nazi agent.

The settlement calls for the Leopold Museum to own the painting by Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele after paying \$19 million to the estate of Lea Bondi Jaray and allowing it to be displayed for three weeks at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in lower Manhattan.

The painting has been the subject of court proceedings in New York City since it was lent 12 years ago to the Museum of Modern Art in New York by the Leopold Museum. At least three times, a judge had ordered it returned to Austria without acknowledgement it had been stolen.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a statement that the settlement among the U.S. government, Jaray's estate and the Leopold Museum "marks another small step toward justice for victims of property crimes during WWII."

The deal comes less than a year after U.S. District Judge Loretta A. Preska rejected the Leopold Museum's argument that the painting was not stolen property and days before she was to preside over a trial to decide whether the museum knew it was stolen property when it was brought into the United States in September 1997.

In January 1998, the Manhattan district attorney's office began investigating claims that the painting was stolen more than a half century earlier when Jaray was forced to sell it on the cheap to a Nazi art collector.

After a state judge refused to let prosecutors seize the painting and an appeals court upheld the ruling, federal prosecutors obtained a federal seizure warrant from a magistrate judge, blocking its return.

The painting was among more than 100 paintings lent to MOMA by the Leopold Foundation for a three-month exhibit that ended Jan. 4, 1998. At the time, it was estimated that "Portrait of

Wally" was worth about \$2 million.

The Leopold Museum has always insisted that it acquired the painting in good faith from legitimate postwar owners.

Henry Bondi of Princeton, N.J., filed the claim that said the painting had been taken from his late aunt, a Viennese Jew, as she fled her home in 1939 to go to London when Germany annexed Austria. She died in 1969. Henry Bondi also has since died.

A lawyer for the Leopold Museum did not immediately return a telephone message for comment.

In a statement, representatives of the Bondi estate said the settlement reflects the true value of the painting.

They also said the public display of the painting at the Museum of Jewish Heritage will let visitors view it in a setting that memorializes the suffering of Holocaust victims and the resilience of those who escaped and survived.

"Justice has been served," the statement said. "Finally, after more than 70 years, the wrongs suffered by Lea Bondi Jaray are at least being acknowledged and, to some degree, corrected."

Confetti punctuates circus around Lohan surrender

LYNWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Hitting bottom under Hollywood's glare, Lindsay Lohan began serving jail time Tuesday for a probation violation that underlined the starlet's inability to put a 2007 drug case behind her.

Incongruously—or maybe not given the media frenzy surrounding her personal drama someone showered the actress and the crowd with a blast of confetti outside the Beverly Hills courthouse as she walked in to surrender with dozens of cameras following her.

Two weeks after sobbing at her sentencing, Lohan was more composed but nervous Tuesday, fidgeting with her hair in court as she waited to begin serving her time for violating probation. The judge ordered the cameras off for the moment a bailiff handcuffed the 24-year-old and whisked her into a lockup cell.

Her estranged father, Michael, shouted in court, "We love you, Lindsay!" Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel sentenced the "Mean Girls" star to 90 days in jail, three months in rehab and increased scrutiny by probation officials on July 6 after determining the actress violated her probation by missing seven alcohol education classes since December. Sheriff's officials said Lohan will end up serving only about two weeks behind bars because of jail overcrowding and anticipated credits for good behavior.

After Tuesday's brief court hearing, news helicopters chronicled her ride in an unmarked sheriff's cruiser to a suburban women's jail about half an hour away. The helicopters surrounded the facility as Lohan entered through a side entrance. Clusters of camera crews awaited Lohan's arrival inside marked areas surrounded by yellow sheriff's tape on the grass in front of the county jail, which is located next to a busy freeway in a blue-collar area.

Lohan will serve significantly longer than the 84 minutes she spent at the same jail in her 2007 case. Revel ordered that the actress cannot be freed on house arrest, electronic monitoring or work release.

Lohan's surrender was long anticipated but not without last-minute drama. Last week she moved into a sober living facility founded by famed celebrity attorney Robert Shapiro, who on Friday said he agreed to represent her.

But by Monday afternoon Shapiro was standing before Revel, announcing he would not be handling it. That prompted widespread speculation about who would represent the actress.

On Tuesday morning it was Lohan's longtime attorney,



Confetti flies as Lindsay Lohan, with an unidentified man, arrives at the Beverly Hills courthouse in Beverly Hills, Calif., Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

and stood beside her. Holley acted like she had never left the case and said afterward she will continue to represent Lohan.

"She's scared as anyone would be, but she's as resolute and she's doing it," Holley said after the hearing.

Lohan was booked into the jail at 10:11 a.m. and sheriff's department spokesman Steve Whitmore described her as "extremely cooperative."

Once there, she traded in her dark denim jeans, gray top, black corset belt and black jacket for a Shawn Chapman Holley, who jail jumpsuit. She will now spend accompanied the starlet to court much of the next few weeks in

an isolation unit that has housed celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Michelle Rodriguez.

After a pair of high-profile arrests, Lohan pleaded guilty in August 2007 to two misdemeanor counts of being under the influence of cocaine. She also pleaded no contest to two counts of driving with a blood-alcohol level above 0.08 percent and one count of reckless driving.

She was sentenced to three years of probation but has struggled with the terms, earning a one-year extension in October but still failing to complete her alcohol education program as ordered. Holley said Tuesday she submitted proof that Lohan had finally completed the program.

Lohan was first arrested after a hit-and-run crash on Memorial Day weekend in 2007. Two months later, she was arrested after commandeering a sport utility vehicle and engaging in a chase that ended in downtown Santa Monica. The incident has spawned a civil case that has been delayed because of Lohan's jail stint. Revel noted that during both of her arrests, Lohan lied about her involvement and said her recent apology didn't ring true.

The incidents proved to be more than just a blip in Lohan's personal life. The star of films such as "Mean Girls," "Freaky Friday" and "Herbie Fully Loaded" has seen movie roles evaporate. Her last release, "Labor Pains," didn't even get a theatrical release.

In recent months, she also has sparred publicly with Michael Lohan, who she sometimes calls her "ex-father." The two arrived separately for Tuesday's hearing.

Jail is only the beginning of a period of increased court scrutiny for Lohan, who will now have to report to a probation officer within a day of leaving jail and will have to enter 90 days of rehab.

The time away is impacting several Lohan projects, including her starring role in a biopic on porn actress Linda Lovelace. It has left her unable to promote her upcoming turn as a gun-toting nun in Robert Rodriguez's "Machete."

It will also silence her on Twitter, the microblogging service where Lohan frequently goes to post updates and defend herself. Her final post—roughly 12 hours before she walked into the Beverly Hills courthousemade light of her once promising film career and her looming

"The only 'bookings' that I'm familiar with are Disney Films, never thought that I'd be 'booking' into jail eeeks," she wrote.

John Morris, the voice behind 'Toy Story's' Andy, finds it hard to let go of childhood

By YVONNE VILLARREAL

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—His own toy story began 18 years ago. John Morris was a little boy, just 7 years old, and when he became part of Hollywood history he wasn't even paying attention—he was too busy playing with some X-Men action figures to notice that he had won the voice role of Andy, the earnest and imaginative youngster at the center of Pixar's "Toy Story" franchise.

"It was an open casting call for boys," Morris, now 25, recalled. "I knew I was there for a job.

But, I mean, at that moment, it was just about me and my toys. I was playing and was in my own world. I think that's what got me the part. I was Andy."

"Toy Story 3" has already pulled in \$459 million worldwide since its June 18 release and \$1.31 billion as a franchise. More John Morris is the voice of the character Andy, ferent after the first film than that, the newest edi- shown here in a scene from "Toy Story 3." tion has earned some of the

strongest reviews of any major studio release this year. No one marvels at that more than Morris.

"Usually, people grow out of things, they move on," Morris said. "It's just amazing how many people still find the magic in these films. The stories are amazing. The characters...they're like family. They hold a special place in your heart."

Directed by Lee Unkrich and starring the familiar voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Don Rickles, Wallace Shawn and the rest of the playroom gang, "Toy Story 3" centers on Andy on the eve of his big move to college. As he packs up for the future, he must deal with a bit of the past should he pack away his beloved toys in the attic or just send them to the curb?

"It's a moment where childhood meets adult-

hood," Morris said. "Hanging on becomes harder and harder and you sort of have to let some things go. It's something everyone can relate to."

Morris was faced with the same decision with his own playthings just before starting college at UCLA in 2003. He said that, for him, a My Buddy doll was his most prized childhood pal but that there were plenty of others in the emotional toy box.

"Some of them I gave to my little sister," Morris said. "Some of them I saved in the attic to give to my future kids. The rest I sort of displayed on a shelf. You don't realize how hard it is to let some

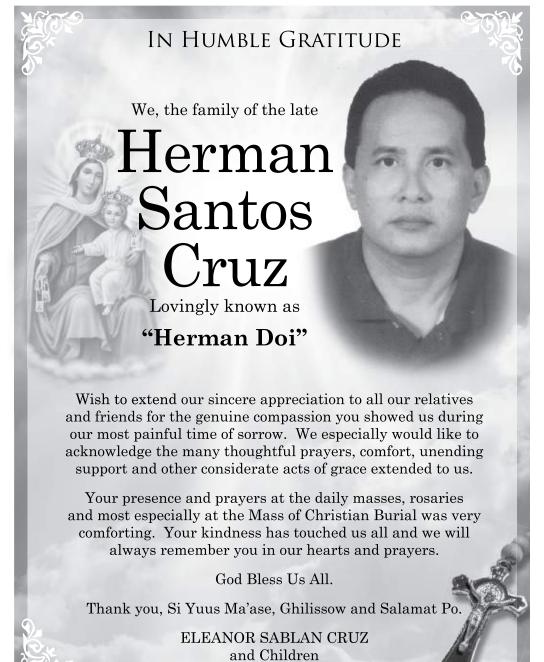
of them go until you're faced with it. You kind of just want to play with them one last time."

The toys-coming-to-life fantasy of the Disney/Pixar franchise holds a special power over young audiences and the boy who gave voice to Andy was no difopened in 1995.

"After the movie came out, I remember I would set my toys up," Morris said. "I'd leave them a certain way on my bed and I'd crack the door open to see if anything was happening—if they were moving or something. I was always hoping to catch them in the act. The films just made you believe."

When it came time to voice the last scene in this newest installment, Morris said it was almost like saying goodbye to childhood.

"It was such an emotional scene," Morris said. "It's like suddenly you're an adult and you have to say goodbye to being a kid and all that childlike wonder. And it was emotional on a whole other level for me because this character has been my life. There was so much depth in that scene for me. I mean, we grew up together, he and I."



&A with 'Inception' director Christopher Nolan

By RICK BENTLEY

LOS ANGELES—Director Christopher Nolan spent 10 years turning an idea about how dreams can be an entry points for others to steal information or plant ideas into the mind-blowing feature film "Inception."

In a recent interview, he talked about making the movie, which is as intellectually complicated as it is action oriented. It's his first release since making the monster hit "The Dark Knight."

Q. Where did you get the idea of being able to invade the dreams of others?

A. I've been fascinated by dreams, really, my whole life. For me, the primary interest in dreams, and making this film, is this notion your mind, while you're asleep, can create an

entire world that you're also experiencing without realizing you're doing it. I think that says a lot about the potential of the human mind—particularly the creative potential. That's something I've found fascinating.

Q. How did the story change during the decade you were writing it? Did vou always have an architect (the person who designs the dream worlds) as part of the team?

A. Really, the pitch was very much the movie you've seen except I hadn't yet figured out the emotional core of the story. That took me a long time to do. I sort of grew into the film in a sense.

I had the heist thing. I had the relationship between the architect and dreams. All of those things were in place for several years, but it took me a long time to sort of find this idea of emotionally connecting with the story.

Q. Why not just make it a simple heist movie?

A. When I looked at heist pictures they tended to be superficial. That doesn't work when you're talking about dreams because the whole thing about dreams, the human mind, it has to have emotional consequences. My process over the years was finding my relationship with the love story, with the tragedy of it, with the emotional side.

Q. Scripts for your previous movies-"The Dark Knight," "Insomnia," etc.-have been based on short stories, other movies or comic books. Was it different with "Inception" because it's your original screenplay?

A. The interesting thing about an original concept is that particularly with the 10-year



gap from my initial set of ideas to finishing the script—by the time you get there you've lived with the idea so long, it really isn't that different from working with someone else's story.

Q. What's your writing process like?

A. I don't actually tend to do a lot of research when I'm writing. I took the approach with writing "Inception" that I did when I was writing "Memento," which is I tend to just examine my own process—in this case dreaming and in the case of "Memento" memory—and try and analyze how that works from my own process.

I do that because I think a lot of what I find you wind up doing with research is confirming things you want to do. And if the research contradicts what you want to do, you go on and do it anyway. At a certain point you realize if you are trying to reach an audience, being as subjective as possible, and trying to write from something as real as possible, is the best way to go.

Q. This film includes everything from a love story to a James Bond-style battle. Why so many different dream locations?

A. For me, when you look at the idea of being able to create a limitless world and use it as almost a playground for action and adventure, I naturally gravitate toward cinematic worlds, whether it's the Bond worlds or things like that. As I was writing, I certainly allowed my mind to wander where it would naturally.

Q. Did you consider releasing the film in 3-D?

A. We looked at shooting on various different formats, including 3-D. But when I really looked at the time period we had and where my attention needed to be in finishing the film, I decided I didn't have the time to do (3-D) to the standard I would like.

Q. What kind of dreams do you have?

A. At various times in my life I've had the experience of lucid dreams, which is a big feature of "Inception." It's the notion of realizing you're in a dream and therefore trying to change it or manipulate it in some way. That's a very striking experience for people who have it.

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NOW SHOWING



Inception

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50 Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard

Synopsis Narner Bros. presents the new film by The Dark Knight's



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30 Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel

Christopher Nolan, this one taking on a sci-fi psychologi-cal spin for the serious-minded action auteur, with eonardo DiCaprio spearheading the cast. Emma Thomas serves as producer, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ken Watanabe, Marion Cotillard, Cillian Murphy, and Ellen Page rounding out the supporting roles.

Based on the Fantasia short, Walt Disney resurrects the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" story with this children's fantasy film starring Jay Baruchel as an apprentice of a magician (Nicolas Cage) who makes a mess of their workshop when his master is out. Teresa Palmer plays the love interest in the Jon Turteltaub-helmed production.



Despicable Me

Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40 1:05 4:05 7:05

Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A man (voiced by Steve Carell) who's in the midst of making plans to steal the moon is sidetracked when he's put in charge of three orphans in this computer-generated 3-D animated film by directors Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin. Jason Segel, Kristen Wiig, Will Arnett, Danny McBride, Russell Brand, and Julie Andrews also lend their voices to the Universal Pictures production.



Predators

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Adrien Brody, Alice Braga Action, Sciece fiction • Rated R



Twilight Saga: Eclipse

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart Fantacy • Rated PG 13



The Last Airbender

Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45 Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Noah Ringer, Nicola Peltz Adventure, Family • Rated PG



Grown Ups

Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35 1:10 4:20 7:10 Sun through Thurs

Adam Sandler, Kevin James Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Jurors in Smith case must reveal medical histories

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge preparing for jury selection in the trial of Anna Nicole Smith's doctors and boyfriend said Tuesday he will dismiss any prospective jurors who refuse to reveal their medical histories, including prescription drug use.

A jury questionnaire also asks if prospects ever abused such drugs.

"I really want to focus on prescription drugs because I think that's what this case is about," Superior Court Judge Robert Perry said during a pretrial hearing.

Dr. Sanjeep Kapoor, Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Smith's former lawyer-boyfriend Howard K. Stern have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to illegally providing sedatives and opiates to the former Playboy model. They are not charged with causing her death.

Each could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Smith died of a drug overdose in 2007 in Florida. The defendants are not charged with causing her death.

The judge also said he will not allow cameras in court because he believes they are a negative influence and help create a "carnival atmosphere.'

Perry also intends to take the unusual step of checking the names of jurors against criminal records to see if they are hiding anything. He said he was concerned about prospects who are eager to become jurors in highprofile cases.

ΤΟΡ ΤΕΝ

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending July 19, 2010:



In this June 27, 2010 file photo, Eminem performs at the BET Awards in Los Angeles.

Singles:

"Love the Way You Lie," Eminem

"**Dynamite**," Taio Cruz

"California Gurls (feat. Snoop Dogg)," Katy Perry

"I Like It," Enrique Iglesias

"Airplanes (feat. Hayley Williams of Paramore)," B.o.B.

"Billionaire (feat. Bruno Mars)," Travie McCoy

"Cooler Than Me," Mike Posner 7.

"Ridin' Solo," Jason Derulo 8.

"Not Afraid," Eminem 9.

"OMG (feat. will.i.am)," Usher

Albums:

"Recovery," Eminem 1.

"Symphonicities," Sting

"Maya," M.I.A.

"An Airplane Carried Me to Bed," Sky Sailing

"Korn III: Remember Who You Are," Korn

"Thank Me Later," Drake

"Black & White," The Maine

"The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (Original Motion Picture **Soundtrack)**," Various Artists

"To the Sea," Jack Johnson 9.

"The Fame," Lady GaGa 10.



In this May 4, 2010 file photo, Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck attends the TIME 100 gala celebrating the 100 most influential people, at the Time Warner Center in New York.

Beck: Doctor says eye disease could blind me

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck says he's been diagnosed with an eye disease that could eventually blind him. The conservative commentator told an audience attending his "American Revival" tour over the weekend in Salt Lake City that a doctor told him he has the degenerative disease macular dystrophy.

Beck says he went to a doctor for testing because he had trouble focusing with his eyes. "He said, 'You have macular dystrophy. ... You could go blind in the next year. Or, you might not."

Beck said he replied: "Did you just charge me a thousand dollars for knowing what I knew my whole life?"

The disease generally makes itself known by a decrease in vision in 20- to 40-year-olds. Beck is 46. The WebMD website says eyesight deteriorates as the disease progresses.



In this March 22, 2010 file photo, rapper-actor Ice-T arrives for the special screening of Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married Too?" in New York.

NYC police accuse rapper Ice–T of driving offense

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police say they have arrested rapper-actor Ice-T on accusations of driving with a suspended license.

Police say the entertainer was driving a 2009 Cadillac near West 40th Street and 11th Avenue on Tuesday when officers stopped him for not wearing a seat belt. They said they ran a check and discovered his license was suspended.

The NYPD said he would be given a ticket and released.

Ice-T denied wrongdoing via Twitter. He says he has a valid New Jersey license and calls the police's allegations against him a "lie."

Court grants Jennifer Aniston restraining order

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—A court has issued a temporary restraining order to Jennifer Aniston against a man who authorities say traveled cross-country in a delusional attempt to marry her.

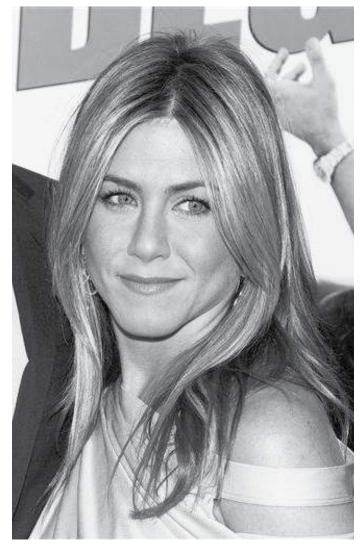
Court documents filed Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif., say police detained Jason R. Peyton last week after finding him with a sharp object, duct tape and love notes to the "Friends" star. Authorities say he was stopped after spending days trying to find Aniston on Sunset Boulevard.

The filings state Peyton has been accused of stalking others and is disobeying court orders that he must take antipsychotic medications.

The 24-year-old was placed on an involuntary psychiatric hold by Los Angeles police. A hearing on the order will be held Aug. 9.

The court filings state Peyton has said he won't stop his pursuit of Aniston.

In this March 16, 2010 file photo, Jennifer Aniston arrives to the premiere of "The Bounty Hunter" at The Ziegfeld Theater in New York.



Schwarzenegger names Geena Davis to Calif. panel

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday appointed actress Geena Davis to a California commission established to promote women's equality.

Schwarzenegger named the 54-year-old actress to the Commission on the Status of Women. The nonpartisan panel advocates for women and girls in areas such as education and access to

health care.

Davis, a Democrat, has worked off screen to reduce gender stereotyping. She is the founder of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in the Media and is a partner with United Nations Development Fund for Women.

"I am delighted to join the governor and this commission," Davis said in a statement. "This appointment affords an important opportunity to improve the lives and well being of girls and women throughout California."

She won an Oscar in 1989 for her supporting role in "The Accidental Tourist" and was nominated for best actress in 1992 for "Thelma and Louise."

The appointment lasts four years and requires Senate confirmation. The 17 commissioners receive a \$100 per diem.

Taylor Swift to release album 'Speak Now' Oct. 25

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— Taylor Swift will release her third album, "Speak Now," worldwide on Oct. 25.

She announced it to her fans Tuesday through a live web chat.

It's been two years since Swift released her sophomore album "Fearless." She says, "You've got to give yourself a little bit of time to live a lot of things so you can write about a lot of things."

Swift explains that the title, "Speak Now," is the theme, and that "track by track, each song is a different confession to a different person."

She wrote all 14 tracks herself. The first single, "Mine," will be released Aug. 16. Swift also plans to launch a world tour following the release.

"Fearless" was the top-selling album of 2009 and earned Swift every major award, including four Grammys.

In this June 17, 2010 file photo, Taylor Swift attends the 2010 Songwriters Hall of Fame awards gala in New York.



Feelings for best friend are burden for bisexual female

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old female who has recently come to terms with the fact that I am bisexual. My problem lies in the fact that I am strongly attracted to one of my best friends. I have liked her for several years, and she is a large part of the reason I discovered I was bisexual. I know she is straight and won't ever feel the same about me, but every time I'm around her, my romantic feelings for her start up again.



DearAbby

It has reached the point where I'm considering avoiding her to stop these feelings. None of my close friends are gay, and I don't feel comfortable discussing this with them. Is there any way I can still be friends with her without being so intensely attracted to her?

ATTRACTED TO MY BEST FRIEND

DEAR ATTRACTED: You can do something about your actions, but not about your feelings. You will probably always be attracted to your friend. You will be less attracted—and better able to handle your feelings—once you have become involved with someone else.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Rodney" for four months. He is very nice, and we get along well. My problem is I am not totally attracted to him because of some dental issues.

Shortly after we started dating he told me he chews tobacco, which has contributed to his yellowing teeth. Because of this I find it hard to kiss him. Rodney has noticed it, but I told him I am not big on kissing—which is really not the case.

How should I approach the subject with Rodney? This issue keeps me from completely falling for him. Please offer me some advice if you can.

TURNED OFF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR TURNED OFF: If you truly care about Rodney, confront the subject directly, because if he doesn't do something about his addiction to tobacco, your romance won't last. Tell him you weren't honest about how you feel about kissing and that his breath and yellow teeth have kept you from fully enjoying it.

Most people don't realize how dangerous and addictive chewing tobacco is. Studies show that the amount of nicotine in the bloodstream of "chewers" is twice as great as for smokers. Chewing tobacco is a cause for cancer of the mouth, lip, tongue, cheek and throat, heart disease, tooth decay and receding gums, as well as halitosis (bad breath). Nicotine gum can help Rodney quit and possibly save his life. So speak up—for his sake. And yours.

....

DEAR ABBY: When I was in college, I dated "Alex." Three months later I found out he had a steady girlfriend, "Jane." Over the next two years Alex continued to cheat on Jane with me because Jane wouldn't have sex with him. I finally told her what had been going on because I was angry, and I ended the relationship with Alex.

Ten years have passed, and I hear they are being married. Do you see anything weird/strange/wrong with that? If a man cheated on me and later proposed marriage, I wouldn't accept because the thought of the other woman would always be on my mind. Would you share your thoughts?

DUMBFOUNDED IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: OK. I think it's time you stopped obsessing about a relationship that ended 10 years ago. It appears Jane has waited a long time for Alex to get serious—and now he has. What happens after they marry will be her problem, not yours. Let it go and concentrate on your own life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.Dear Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis















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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy















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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Selena Gomez, 28; Rufus Wainwright, 37; David Spade, 46; Albert Brooks, 63

Happy Birthday: Don't let your heart rule your head this year or you will make mistakes that will be difficult to reverse. Your focus should be on your professional life. Don't let the uncertainty that surrounds you bring you down. There is a lot riding on your ability to take over instead of being taken advantage of. You numbers are 3, 11, 14, 25, 28, 31, 40



ARIES (March 21-April 19): The sooner you tie up what needs to be done, the better off you'll be emotionally, mentally and financially. You may need to liquidate some of your assets but make sure it's for a good cause and not for someone else's benefit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A money deal can pan out, but if it entails giving someone financial assistance, keep looking for a deal that is more conservative and less dependent on someone else. Don't lend or borrow cash, even if it is someone you figure you can count on. OOO

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen but don't make promises. You cannot jeopardize your position or your financial situation for anyone, no matter what. Networking may bring you in contact with a lot of people but don't expect to hear much of the truth about what others are doing or what they have. ���



symptom

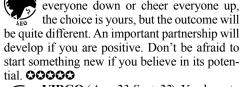
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CANCER (June 21-July 22): Uncertainties revolving around work can be unnerving. Hide your emotions or you will end up in a vulnerable position. Being efficient and fast will show how valuable you are and what you are capable of doing. •••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can bring



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to lay your cards on the table or a horrible misunderstanding will develop. It's bet-

ter to face controversy before you get too deep into an agreement that may not favor you. Look out for anyone using emotional blackmail. •• LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can get

help but, before you do, do as much as you can yourself. Don't neglect your personal obligations while you are trying to get ahead professionally. Balance and structure will be the challenge. OCCO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Good fortune is heading your way. Past regrets can be taken care of with an act of good faith. Don't let someone else's uncertainty or financial choices influence your own money matters. OOO

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have to be prepared and ready to respond to whatever comes your way. Stick to the rules. Mishaps will result if you aren't paying attention. Anger can cost you your

job or a good friendship. ❖❖

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tell it like it is. It's better to be forthright and willing to share if you want to get

reach. OOO **AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do something worthwhile to help others. It will boost your confidence and add new

past any allegations being made. Money, a gift

or something of value appears to be within

possibilities to strive for. Doing something good is never a waste. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There will

be plenty of action going on around you, making it vital to protect what's yours. Play by the rules. Don't be afraid to share what you are capable of doing. Promote your skills, knowledge and drive. **©**

Birthday Baby: You are caring and compassionate but you shy away from adversity. You are happy to do your own thing and enjoy having fun.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7/22

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

	Saturday's SUDOKU Answer								
8	3	1	9	2	4	7	5	6	
4	6	2	1	5	7	9	3	8	
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WONDERWORD

OUELLET

HOW TO PIAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

FILL THAT BASKET

SDESOLCNOISACCO A E S A C A R T N G I E R O F M S H T H G I L N E D R A G IUCOPATTERNFHA SGERNRCPCWARTSL INTGPAAOPACGWDU

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER FCD AD OF THE ADOPTION CIVIL AND CHANGE OF **ACTION** NO. 10-0377 NAME OF:

C.T.P.O., Minor Child

By:

NOTICE LARRY T. OLOUACHEL HEARING & ELIZABETH C. PALACIOS,

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a nearing on August 12, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 20th day of July, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan Clerk of Court By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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/ITATION FOR BID ITB10-DCCA/NAP-132

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 16,2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



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Cubs manager Piniella retiring after season



(AP)—After all those dirt-kicking, base-tossing

tantrums, Lou Piniella is going out with more of a whimper.

This isn't the way he envisioned his final days as the Chicago Cubs' manager. The team had bigger plans, too.

Piniella announced Tuesday he will retire at the end of the season, completing a storied and often colorful career that included 18 years in the majors as a player and another 22 as a manager.

The 66-year-old Piniella, who made five trips to the World Series in his career and has three championship rings, said he was looking forward to spending more time with his family. He didn't rule out consulting for the Cubs or another team, but made it clear he was getting out of the daily grind.

"It's been a wonderful experience," he said. "There's no way that I won't cherish the memories here.'

But, he added: "I've been away from home since 1962. That's about 50 years."

General manager Jim Hendry said Cubs Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg, now managing the club's Triple-A affiliate in Des Moines, will be a candidate for the job. He said Piniella's replacement won't be hired before the end of the season, but he hopes to have a manager in place by organization meetings in late October or early November.

"It's not going to be a two-week process," said Hendry, who new owner Tom Ricketts said will be back next year.

Sandberg, who spent several seasons as a spring training instructor with the Cubs after retiring in 1997, said he's

"I need to focus on what I'm doing here in Des Moines with these players and what my job is right now," he said. "If the time came, if I was considered for that job in Chicago, I think that's be a terrific thing just to be considered. The whole goal of any minor leaguer is to get to the major leagues, and I think that includes coaches and managers

Cubs slugger Derrek Lee said he was surprised by the timing and Piniella will be missed.

"He doesn't like to lose," Lee said. "He's had a great career, put a lot of time into this game."

Announcing his retirement now, Piniella said, gives the team time to find a replacement.

"I'm proud of our accomplishments during my time here and this will be a perfect way for me to end my career," he said. "But let me make one thing perfectly clear: Our work is far from over. I want to keep the momentum going more than anything else and win as many games as we can to get back in this pennant race."

When asked why he didn't step down immediately, Piniella shot back, "Why? I signed here for four years. I'm going to honor the contract."

Entering Tuesday's game against Houston, Piniella's overall record was 1,826-1,691 (.519). He trails only Tony La Russa, Bobby Cox and Joe Torre in victories among active managers. The Cubs said Piniella will retire as the 14th-winningest manager in major league history.

Piniella's record with the Cubs was 307-271. Under the mellowed skipper, Chicago won consecutive NL Central

C H I C A G O titles in 2007-08, but missed the playoffs last year and has struggled again this season with a new owner in charge.

> The Cubs have gone 102 years without a World Series title.

> "It's got to be a lot of pressure," All-Star outfielder Marlon Byrd said. "It's got to take a toll. Everybody wants to come here and win a championship. You assume you're going to do it, you're going to be the guy to come in here and help this team win it. ... It can take a toll on you, but at the same time, he hasn't given up - not one bit."

A right-handed outfielder, Piniella was the AL Rookie of the Year in 1969 after batting .282 with 11 homers and 68 RBIs with the Royals. He was traded to the Yankees in 1973 and ended his playing career with New York in 1984.

In all, he played 18 years in the majors—11 with the Yankees—and was a career .291 hitter.

Piniella began managing in 1986 with the Yankees and lasted three years, including a stint as general manager. He managed the Reds from 1990-92, leading them to a World Series championship in his first season. He also got national attention for a clubhouse wrestling match with reliever Rob Dibble.

Dibble, part of the "Nasty Boys" bullpen, said Piniella "was one of us." He downplayed their 1992 tussle as overblown

'We butted heads once. It's way more famous than it should be. We've been family ever since," Dibble said. "During batting practice every day,



Chicago Cubs manager Lou Piniella announces that he will retire from coaching at the end of this season during a baseball news conference at Wrigley Field on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, in Chicago

Lou would go to every guy just to see but as a person. I'll always respect him how you were doing—not as a player,

for that. I always thought that was one

of the best qualities about him, that he always cared about you as a person first, a baseball player second."

After Cincinnati, Piniella had a long run in Seattle, where his teams won at least 90 games four times. The Mariners went 116-46 in 2001, but lost in the AL championship series to the Yankees. His 1995 and 2000 Mariners teams also fell in the ALCS.

"For me, he's obviously a Hall of Fame manager and a great player," said Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez, who played for Piniella from 1994-2000 in Seattle. "He is a rare breed, a rare combination of a guy that played and played in New York, won a championship, and is proven and is tough—and is from Florida like me. I just have a lot of love and admiration for Lou."

Piniella won 93 games his final season with the Mariners in 2002 before heading home to his native Tampa. But he questioned Tampa Bay's commitment to winning before the team bought out the final year of his fouryear contract.

The Cubs won 97 games under Piniella in 2008, but were swept out of the playoffs for the second straight year and it's been mostly downhill since that successful run.

Reds manager Dusty Baker, who was in the Cubs' dugout before Piniella took over, said he was surprised by the timing of the announcement.

"There's a time for us all," he said. "It's hard to keep that pace without having a heart attack."

Braves overtake Padres as NL leader

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Diaz homered for the third straight game as the Atlanta Braves beat the San Diego Padres 4-1 in Tuesday's clash of National League divisional leaders.

Diaz drove in three runs with a two-run homer in the fourth and a run-scoring single in the seventh as the East-leading Braves overtook the West-leading Padres for the NL's

Atlanta starter Jair Jurrjens (3-3) pitched seven strong innings, giving up only two hits over the last five.

San Diego starter Wade LeBlanc (4-8) gave up two runs in six innings.

Cardinals 7, Phillies 1

In St. Louis, Chris Carpenter worked eight dominant innings to steer St. Louis past Philadelphia and to its seventh straight win.

Carpenter (11-3) allowed one run, while the Cardinals got homers from Randy Winn and Matt Holliday.

Phillies 47-year-old starter Jamie Moyer strained an elbow and lasted only one inning. The Phillies have lost five of six since the All-Star break and demoted another starter earlier in the day, sending Kyle Kendrick to the minors.

Andrew Carpenter (0-1) pitched three innings in relief of Moyer, yielding three runs.

Rockies 10, Marlins 0

In Miami, Melvin Mora drove in five runs as Colorado crushed Florida.

Batting in the No. 3 spot for only the second time this season, Mora hit a bases-clearing double to highlight a six-run third inning. He also hit a tworun homer off Nate Robertson (6-8) in pitched two innings to earn his first

the fifth and finished with three hits, matching a season high.

Rockies starter Jeff Francis (3-3) pitched seven scoreless innings, striking out seven and walking none.

Robertson gave up eight runs in five innings for Florida, which lost its first game in four and suffered its heaviest defeat of the season.

Diamondbacks 3, Mets 2

In Phoenix, Barry Enright pitched eight effective innings to guide Arizona to a tight win over New York.

Enright (2-2) retired 14 straight hitters after escaping a tight spot in the first inning and struck out a career-high eight. He also had his first career RBI.

Justin Upton hit his 16th homer of the season off R.A. Dickey (6-4), giving Arizona consecutive wins for the first time since Kirk Gibson became manager on July 2.

New York's Josh Thole and Angel Angels 10, Yankees 2 Pagan hit homers in the eighth and ninth but Juan Gutierrez hung on to get the save.

Cubs 14, Astros 7

In Chicago, Aramis Ramirez hit three homers and drove in seven runs to help Chicago rally and beat Houston hours after manager Lou Piniella announced he will retire at the end of the season.

Ramirez hit two three-run homers and a solo shot. It was the fourth threehomer game of his career.

Despite the scoreline, the Cubs only went ahead in the seventh with Derrek Lee RBI double, and had trailed 7-1 in the fifth.

Chicago's Andrew Cashner (1-3)

major league victory. Houston's Brandon Lyon (5-4) got the loss.

Pirates 11, Brewers 9

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez hit a grand slam in Pittsburgh's nine-run first that set up victory over Milwaukee.

Alvarez added a solo drive in the second for his first career multihomer game.

The Pirates got 3 2-3 scoreless innings from four relievers after the Brewers got within one. D.J. Carrasco (2-2) pitched 2 2-3 inning to take the win and Octavio Dotel worked the ninth for his 20th save.

Sloppy Milwaukee committed three errors over a six-pitch span in Pittsburgh's big first and the nine runs allowed in the opening frame set a Brewers record. Dave Bush (4-8) got the loss.

Izturis and Mike Napoli hit two-run homers to back a crisp effort from starting pitcher Sean O'Sullivan as the Los Angeles Angels beat the New York Yankees.

O'Sullivan (1-0) was starting in place of Scott Kazmir, who was put on the disabled list Sunday because of shoulder fatigue. Called up from Triple-A Salt Lake earlier Tuesday, the right-hander retired 12 in a row after giving up two runs in the first inning. In six innings, he allowed two hits, three walks and struck out four.

Rangers 8, Tigers 0

At Detroit, Tommy Hunter pitched seven scoreless innings, and Josh Hamilton and Ian Kinsler homered as Texas blanked Detroit.

The American League West-leading Rangers are 5-1 since the All-Star break.

Hunter became the first Ranger to start a season 7-0, pitching only as a starter. He gave up three hits and two walks.

Indians 4, Twins 3

At Minneapolis, Travis Hafner had two hits and the go-ahead RBI in the eighth inning, and Justin Masterson allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings as Cleveland edged Minnesota.

Shelley Duncan added a bases-loaded double in the sixth for the Indians. who are 6-0 since the All-Star break.

Rafael Perez (3-0) picked up the win in relief of Masterson and Chris Perez earned his ninth save.

Blue Jays 13, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major leagueleading 26th home run and drove in five runs for Toronto to back Jesse Litsch, who picked up his first victory since 2008.

The Blue Jays have won four of their past five games, while the Royals have lost seven of eight.

Bautista hit a two-run homer in the first inning. He has homered in six of his last 13 games. His single in the second scored John Buck, who had three doubles.

Bautista's double in a five-run eighth gave him five RBIs to match his career high.

Litsch (1-4) was 0-5 with a 7.08 ERA in eight starts since beating Baltimore on Sept. 18, 2008. He made only two starts last season before season-ending elbow surgery.

Armstrong: Still a chance for a Tour stage win?



PAU, France (AP)-Lance Armstrong came so close Tuesday to a Tour de France stage win

that he's been yearning for in his final appearance, and one could still come with four racing days remaining.

The seven-time Tour champion ruled himself out of contention for the overall title 10 days ago after struggling in the first Alpine challenge, and he's looking forward to retirement when the race ends in Paris on Sunday.

But Armstrong's coach says he could yet have one more podium climb.

"It's not yet finished," said Johan Bruyneel, manager of the RadioShack team and the man who coached Armstrong to all his victories from 1999 to 2005.

"There's a single (mountain) stage left on Thursday ... we're going try again," said Bruyneel, who also has coached the winner of nine of the past 11 Tours—including Alberto Contador in 2007 and 2009.

Heading into the final rest day on Wednesday, Armstrong finished a respectable sixth in Stage 16 on Tuesday by keeping up with and at times leading a breakaway bunch that got out early in the 199.5-kilometer (124-mile) trek up four nasty Pyreneen peaks.

The stage, which had a 64-kilometer (40-mile) ride down from the Aspin pass, wasn't suited for a possible Armstrong win as long as he was surrounded by other—and mostly young-

After a plodding day of climbs,



Damiano Cunego of Italy, Lance Armstrong of the US, and stage winner Pierrick Fedrigo of France, left to right, climb towards Tourmalet pass during the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 199.5 kilometers (124 miles) with start in Bagneresde-Luchon and finish in Pau, Pyrenees region, France, Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

his 38-year-old legs weren't able to battle the final bunch sprint—won by France's Pierrick Fedrigo.

"It was full gas all day," said Armstrong. "It's been awhile since I sprinted ... Just not quick enough. I'm not the best guy in the race but I still have the spirit of a fighter."

The main race contenders, including overall leader Contador of Spain, and his closest rival, Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, trailed deep in the main pack that crossed nearly 7 minutes after Armstrong's breakaway band.

Armstrong moved from 31st place overall to 25th, 33:46 behind Contador.

Tuesday's trek began along two tough Pyrenean climbs-one right from the start, when Armstrong joined an attack—and then, up two even harder ones, the Tourmalet and fine now.' Aubisque passes.

On paper, it was the hardest day on the Tour this year. But Thursday's stage was likely to be the most decisive. The last of four stages in the mountains straddling the French-Spanish border, it features an uphill finish up the Tourmalet — one almost certain to sift out the potential winners from the losers.

Schleck, who has promised revenge after Contador swiped the yellow jersey on Monday by continuing riding while the Luxembourg rider fixed a broken chain, knows he'll have to make his move Thursday to erase his 8-second deficit to the Spaniard.

A mostly flat stage on Friday is unlikely to alter the top standings, and Saturday's penultimate stage is a final 52-kilometer (32.3-mile) time trial—a discipline Contador excels in.

Within a distant striking distance, but more likely just battling for a podium spot, are Samuel Sanchez of Spain, who's third, 2 minutes behind his compatriot, and Denis Menchov of Russia—2:13 back in fourth.

The Spanish defending champion, who's looking for his third Tour win in four years, said he and Schleck patched up their differences over the chain incident, and Contador apologized on YouTube.

"We used the day to talk and we have already arranged everything," Contador said. "Both of us did not want to see our friendship broken by what happened yesterday.'

Schleck all but agreed: "We are

Their looming battle Thursday on the Tourmalet will make it tough for Armstrong-if he's got it in him to break away again-to get out ahead of Schleck and Contador.

"It's a very, very hard stage and we can have very big gaps—probably more than in the time trial," Contador said.

Serena Williams hoping to play at US Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH



Serena Williams is hoping to recover from a right foot injury

in time to play at the U.S. Open, the agent for the 13-time Grand Slam singles champion said Tuesday.

"Right now, we're taking it a day at a time. She's resting and recovering," agent Jill Smoller said in a telephone interview. "She's a fast healer."

The No. 1-ranked Williams had surgery last week in Los Angeles to repair deep cuts on her right foot. She tweeted Tuesday about spending a "5th day in bed. arghhhh"

The American was hurt while she was in Munich this month-shortly after winning her fourth Wimbledon singles title on July 3, and before playing in an exhibition match against Kim Clijsters that drew a tennis-record crowd of 35,681 in Brussels on July 8.

"She will start training again as soon as she's healed," Smoller said.

Williams already has pulled out of three hard-court tournaments she was scheduled to enter in preparation for the U.S. Open. The season's last major championship begins Aug. 30 in New York.

She withdrew from the July 26-Aug. 1 event in Istanbul, the Aug. 9-15 event in Mason, Ohio, and the Aug. 16-22 event in Montreal.

The foot injury also led the 28-year-old Williams to miss the full World TeamTennis season for the Washington Kastles.

Generally, neither Williams nor her older sister Venus, a seven-time major singles champion, publicly discusses injuries.

Serena Williams already missed all of February, March and April this year because of a left knee problem. She is 25-4 with two singles titles in 2010—at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

She won her first Grand Slam championship at age 17 at the 1999 U.S. Open, and she also won the title there in 2002 and 2008. Last year, as the defending champion, she lost in the semifinals to Clijsters when a tirade at a line judge over a foot-fault call at the end of the match resulted in a point penalty.

'Serena Williams is one of our sport's greatest champions, and we are very hopeful she will be back at the U.S. Open. We communicate with her team frequently, and will continue to do so," Open tournament director Jim Curley said. "We wish her a speedy recovery."

Cleveland fans dumping LeBron gear

CLEVELAND (AP)— They're taking the jerseys off their backs for LeBron James. Then tossing them away—for a good cause.

Stung by the NBA superstar's decision to leave Cleveland and play for Miami, Cavaliers fans have been unloading their unwanted No. 23 jerseys, T-shirts and other clothing items bearing James' name at locations around the city. Organizers are shipping the discarded James gear to homeless shelters in South Florida.

"It's like any breakup," said Beau Miller, who began the campaign with three friends. "You want to give all your stuff back."

For the past week, Cleveland fans have been dropping off their LeBronrelated items at Yours Truly Restaurants in Northeast Ohio. Miller said he and his friends wanted to turn a negative situation into a positive and that the response has been "extraordinary."

"We wanted something good to come out of this," he said. "We didn't want another 'I hate LeBron campaign.' There's enough of that going around."

Doug Libelich, manager of the Yours Truly location in Shaker Heights, Ohio, said there has been a steady flow of fans-mostly young ones-ridding themselves of LeBron-related clothing, including the iconic 23 jerseys, which were wildly popular during James' seven seasons with the Cavaliers.

"It's been picking up in the last few days," he said. "All kinds of stuff."

James' messy separation with Cleveland has caused a negative backlash



Sitting in front of a pile of discarded shirts honoring former Cleveland Cavaliers NBA star LeBron James, Yours Truly restaurant manager Christina Weiner holds up the t-shirt that is being exchanged for the turned-in tops at the eatery in Beachwood, Ohio on Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

against the 25-year-old, who announced his decision to leave the Cavs as a free agent during a one-hour TV special on July 8. Following his announcement, some fans burned James' jersey in protest.

While appreciating the pain James caused Cleveland fans, Miller, along with friends Chris Jungjohann, Andrew De Crane and Tim Zeller, saw his departure as an opportunity to help those less fortunate. Along with donating the clothing, the group began breakupwithlebron.com, where they are selling Tshirts with the slogan "It's Not Us, It's You," on the front.

Proceeds from the \$15 shirts are going to the Cleveland City Mission.

NBA BRIEFS

Contract issue forces Stoudemire out of worlds

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Amare Stoudemire will not play for the United States in next month's world championships because of problems insuring his contract, a damaging blow to the Americans on the day training camp opened. The New York Knicks new forward was expected to be one of the Americans' top players in Turkey, but the team learned of the change of plans Tuesday. The Knicks asked Stoudemire to pull out Monday night and he understood, though he was looking forward to rejoining the team after playing for the Americans in the 2007 Olympic qualifying tournament. ESPN.com first reported that Stoudemire might not be available to play in the championships that begin Aug. 28. Stoudemire has had microfracture knee surgery among his injuries, a major reason Phoenix wouldn't offer him a maximum length contract. The Knicks then gave him a five-year deal worth nearly \$100 million, even while saying they weren't sure if the contract could be insured.

Hornets hiring Dell Demps as general manager

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A person familiar with the hiring says Dell Demps has agreed to become the New Orleans Hornets' next general manager. The person, who spoke to The Associated Press late Tuesday night on condition of anonymity

because the hiring had not been formally announced, says the move is expected to become official on Wednesday. Demps has been in the San Antonio Spurs' front office the past five years, most recently as vice president of basketball operations under general manager R.C Buford. Demps also played parts of three seasons in the NBA, including 1995-96 with San Antonio when new Hornets coach Monty Williams also was with the Spurs. The 40-year-old Demps will replace Jeff Bower, who stepped down last week.

AP source: Bulls finalizing sign-trade for Watson

CHICAGO (AP)—A person familiar with the situation tells The Associated Press that the Chicago Bulls are finalizing a sign-and-trade deal with the Golden State Warriors for guard C.J. Watson. The Warriors would likely receive a 2011 secondround pick. The person spoke Tuesday on the condition of anonymity because the deal was not official. Watson can play both guard spots, though his primary role with the Bulls would likely be to back up All-Star Derrick Rose at the point. He has averaged 8.7 points in 23 minutes per game over three seasons. The move would be the latest in a busy offseason for the Bulls, who have also acquired two-time All-Star forward Carlos Boozer, sharpshooter Kyle Korver and shooting guard Ronnie Brewerwho all played together in Utah.

Champion teams awarded hardware at SEDA banquet

By WALTER SUTHERLAND REPORTER



The champion teams of Saipan Electronic Darts Association's

2010 Winter/Spring season were awarded their trophies and prizes during a banquet last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret in the Pacific Islands Club.

Oleai Beach Bar's Oleai Snipers, made up of Mhel Apacible, Willy Cuesta, Danny Lumahan, Christine Madreo, George Medina, Noel Saluta and Pam Ybanez, won first place in the Master's League.

The D'Pirates Sports Bar's, Black Stallions took second, Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 3457's Angry Dragons placed third, and Tijuana Mexican Restaurant's Wahoo Destroyers rounded out the fourth spot. DPSB's D Pirates won the sportsmanship award.

Eric Durano and Ed Gabito each won the Hi-In awards (160) and Gabito also won the Hi-Out award (160) for the division. Jun Olita won the Master's Top Gun honors and the most valuable player award for maintaining an impressive 0.970 winning percentage for the season.

DPSB's Flying Dartsmen, made up of Julian Camacho. Sebastian DL Guerrero, Jayson John, Hans Pua, Frank and Patrick Taitano, won first place in the A Division.

Bar Gaia's Gaia Punishers took second place, TMR's A-Destroyers came in third, and Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz placed fourth. DPSB's Bud Brothers won the sportsmanship team award.

John dominated the A League in terms of individual awards. John won the Hi-Out Award (160), the Top Gun award, and the MVP award for maintaining a perfect 1.00 winning percentage on the season. Jeff Pangelinan won the A Division Hi-In award (160).

The Naughty Boyz from Wild Bill's Bar and Grill won first place in the Tuesday B League. Jonny's Bar & Grill's Jonny's Walastic came in second and DPSB's B Destroyers placed third.

The Flair Bar's Get Some won the team sportsmanship award. Albert Guevarra won the Tuesday B Hi-In award (160), Jesse Teigita won the Hi-Out award (157), and Wilson Quiban won both the Top Gun Awards and the MVP award with his .943 winning percentage.

The same roster listed above made up the Thursday Fanihi B League winners. The Naughty Boyz play for Wild Bill's on Tuesday and then play for Sande Sports Bar & Grill on Thursdays. The same crew took first place in both divisions. TMR's CK

Rosario Jr., Jay C. Sablan, Destroyers settled for the second seat and The Flair's Salut Balut came in the third place; NFBG's Barracudas won the sportsmanship award.

John Cabrera won the Hi-In award (160), George Medina won the Hi-Out (142), Mario Jumalon won the Top Gun award and Marvin Pamgelinan won MVP honors with his league leading 0.968 winning percentage.

DPSB's Pi3ska Brothers, made up of Jun Agbuya, Willy Apresto, Patrick Castro, Jojo Guilas, Luis Ramos, Rex Vea, and Froilan Viray, won first place in the Thursday Flame Tree Division.

Jonny's Trouble Shooters took second and Gaia Gaiana B placed third; The Bulacheru from NFBG won the sportsmanship award.

Chris Selepio won the Hi-In award (160), Hank Magofna won the Hi-Out (129), Patrick Castro won the Top Gun Award and Jessie Teigita took MVP honors with an impressive .995 winning trend.

Snicker N Tuna's Baracudas won first place in the Kingfisher C Division. Members include Ray Cepeda, Tito Laniyo, Bill Limes, Lee Roy Limes, Eric Palacios, Benji Tagabuel, and Patrick Taitano. DPSB's Shootz placed second, DPSB's Lucky Shots took third, and SNT's K1 were issued the sportsmanship award.

Gregory Laniyo won the Hi-In award (120), Anthony Fitial won the Hi-Out (149), and Aida Lanivo won both the Top Gun and MVP awards; Laniyo maintained a 0.974 winning percentage.

DPSB's Black Pearls, made up of Diony Camacho, Janice Camacho, Jay C. Sablan, Pedro Teregeyo, and David Terlaje, won the Chichirika C Division.

DPSB's Sang and the Gang came in second, VFW One Shot took third and BG's Gaiana C went home with the sportsmanship team award.

Roxanne Wakit won the HI-In (140), Ray Agulto took the Hi-Out (140), Felix Travilla won the Top Gun award and Jay C. Sablan won MVP honors with an even 0.980 winning percentage for the season.

DPSB's B-52 Shooters, made up of Luz Antonio, Bhek Dizon, Rufina Guevarra, Mara Lambon, Lori Terre, and Emily Vargas, won first place in the Ladies Division.

Sande's Yakau placed in second, DPSB's Mama Snipers came in third, and BG's Lady Gaga won the sportsmanship team award.

Frances Magofna won the Hi-In (160), Mary-Lois Blaluk won the Hi-Out (100), Rufina Guevarra won the Top Gun award and Laniyo won her second MVP award of the night with an impressive 0.985 winning percentage.

July 29 to 30.

After the Desert Series, Macaranas will head to Pinehurst, North Carolina for the U.S. Kids World Championships, which will be played from Aug. 5 to 7 at the Legacy. Macaranas will then complete his Summer Tour with two more Desert Series event, two LA Country tournaments, and two Bridgestone TOC.

return to Indian Springs for his fifth Desert Series tournament. Macaranas will also see action in Chester, Washington on July 28, while his sixth Desert Series is scheduled at the Classic from

> **MANGLONA** From Page 28

TIM From Page 28

day in and day out for the past six months," Quan said.

Quan debuted for the Nationals on July 7 when he scored three points and a couple of rebounds in their 61-37 victory over the Budweiser Saints. He tried to find his rhythm in the team's next matches before having a breakout game against the Ed and Tony Diaz brothersled Sixsevenoh in the Budweiser caging. Quan scored 19 points, collared more than 10 rebounds, and had several blocks against Becks.

Coach Rufino Aguon gave Quan a lot of minutes on the court since the latter arrived and the former is happy that the 6'2" forward/center is in shape even though he is training on his own back in the mainland.

"His height gives us depth inside. He is very mobile even though his tall and has a good built, which he can use to push off taller opponents," Aguon said.

Quan agreed that he will give the Nationals the needed push on defense and rebounding.

"For the most part, I think I will be able to contribute the most toward offensive and defensive rebounding," Quan said.

Before informing Aguon of his interest in joining the CNMI Men's Nationals, Quan was asked to play for the Commonwealth's lawn tennis team, again. However, Quan decided to accept a new challenge—basketball.

"I wanted to see if I could be useful in another sport other than tennis. Also, I have al-

ways been interested in focusing on basketball, but attending high school and college off-island makes it tough to represent the CNMI in basketball. I figured the Micronesian Games would be a perfect opportunity to be able to compete in basketball," he said.

Before playing for the CNMI Men's Nationals, the former netter had himself hooked in basketball tournaments in intramural levels while he was at Santa Clara University. Then when he finished his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree in June 2009, he went to play basketball in open gyms in Dublin, Pleasanton, Oakland, and Fremont.

Quan has been playing more basketball games than tennis matches in the last three years and said the switch was a challenge.

"Switching from tennis to basketball was somewhat challenging. Skill wise, my biggest challenges are shooting and dribbling. For the most part, I lack the coordination that is needed when in the act of shooting or dribbling. I have always been and still am trying to improve on those skill sets. As for the physical fitness, tennis and basketball require similar conditioning of the body. More or less, both sports require short bursts of speed for short periods of time. However, I would say basketball would require more stamina," Quan said.

He added the physical training techniques he learned while playing tennis in his early teens help him remain in shape for basketball and other sports.

MACARANAS

From Page 28

the tournament with his 11over par 84 in the first round and then struggled anew in the second with a 13-over par 86.

Despite his two-round total of 170, Macaranas still made the cut in his age group and finished 95th among 120 participants after a three-day total of 31-over par 250. Three players tied for first place—Norman Xiong of San Diego, Brad Dalke of Texas, and Ruperto Zaragosa of the Philippines,

who all had a three-round total of 5-under par 214. Zaragosa went on to win the playoff and the title in the tournament that ran from July 13 to 16.

Macaranas' third-round score was the 10th best that day. He tallied a 2-over par 38 on the front nine and a 5-over par 42 on the back. In the first round, he had a 44 and 40 on the front and back nines and then recorded a 41 on the front and 45 on the back in the secand round

In the final round, Macaranas birdied the par-3, 143-yard No. 9 hole and the par-3, 142-yard

No. 12 hole. He saved par in 10 holes in the first round, nine in the second, and eight in the third. Macaranas also tallied 13 bogeys and 11 double bogeys.

After the world championships in San Diego, Macaranas will compete in 12 more tournaments.

On July 22 (July 23 on Saipan), he will be participating in the Yorba Linda Invitational, which will take place at Yorba Linda in Orange Country. On July 26, he will be playing in Mountain Meadows for the second LA County tournament and on July 27, he will

pulled off an upset against Musca, 185-172, but the former failed to complete his Cinderella finish in the seasonending tournament after bowing to Talavera in Game 2 of

It was Talavera's fifth PBA years (2005, 2009. He won his first yearly plum in 2003.

Talavera qualified for the year-end plum after winning the October roll-off. Other monthly winners who gained entries to last week's tournament were July winner Paul

Pangelinan, Raymond Zapanta (August), Kitz Barja and Alex Cacdac (September), Dumapit (November), Raphael Zapanta (December), Joe Sablan (January), Tony Verdaguer (February), Edward Baluyan (March), Leong (April), Musca (May), and Ray Cruz (June). Ten others joined the nine-game roll-off qualifier, namely Raymond Angeles, Ruselle Zapanta, Simon Manacop, Lito Teodoro, Roger De Guzman, Ariel Dumapit, Boy Corbito, Roger Vales, Chester Bai, and Ben Aizon.

vear's championship, missed the five-man cut, as he finished only sixth in the nine-game roll off with his 1,783 pinfalls, only 16 pinfalls short of fifth qualifier Castro.

competed in California, Arizona, and Texas.

Manglona is expected to return home next month and defend his Gorilla Warfare MMA middleweight title.

"This is my first title defense and I am really looking forward to it," said Manglona about his upcoming bout.

When asked about his plans down the road, Manglona said, "I plan eventually to return home and to give back to my people in any way I can whether it be in MMA, leadership, etc."

Saures loses in Singapore

"Kill" Bill Saures returned home this past Sunday on the losing end of his heavyweight bout in ESPN STAR's Martial Combat held last July 15 in Singapore.

The Team XXTREME fighter lost his 205-lb match to South Korean Joo Su Lim via referee stoppage 1:20 into the first round. Saures was an 11th hour

replacement for the bout and trained only two weeks.

The 6'1" Lim is recognized as one of the Top 3 heavyweights in South Korea. He is also an experienced fighter with a 18-6-1 winloss-tie record and at 244 lbs, is 62 lbs heavier than Saures.

According to members of Saures' corner, the stoppage was controversial as Saures claimed he slipped after a hard punch from his opponent that sent him off balance.

Saures insisted he was fine and wanted to continue fighting, but the referee took it as a knockdown instead of a slip and may have ended the fight pre-maturely.

"Bill was doing great in the early goings of the opening round, landing several punches and kicks to his opponents, head and body. After a brief exchange, his opponent decided to close the distance and put Bill in a clinch. From there, [Saures] did some dirty boxing and connected on a few hits from inside the clinch, but once they separated, Bill got caught by a punch that sent him to the canvas," one of Saures' corner men claimed.

TALAVERA

From Page 28

pins in Game 2 against the latter's 159.

Twenty-four male keglers battled for the 2010 Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Bowler of the Year plum and each played nine games to determine the five qualifiers to the stepladder finals.

Talavera notched the first slot and an automatic finals seat after topping the ninegame roll-off with his 1,867 pinfalls and average of 207.44 pinfalls. Talavera recorded 200-plus pinfalls in five games, had his lowest output at 191 (Game 5), and logged his best score at 266 (Game 9)

for an outright finals berth and a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship.

Rusty Musca, who took the 2008 title, secured the No. 2 seeding and advanced to the semis after his nine-game total of 1,841 pinfalls. Musca tallied more than 200 pinfalls in four of his last five games, showing his best form in Game 8 with his 228 pinfalls Bowler of the Year title, havand averaging 204.56 pinfalls per game.

Richard Leong (1,829), Dumapit (1,824), and Alex Castro (1,799) nailed the last three qualifying tickets and had to slug it out for the semis seat and the right to face Musca in the next round. Dumapit prevailed in the three-man playoff with his 193 pinfalls. Castro came up with only

175 pinfalls, while Leong had only 148. In the semifinals, Dumapit

the finals. ing won the award for three consecutive 2006, and 2007) before missing the crown in 2008 and

Omechelang, who won last

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010 **27**

30th Annual Kaike Triathlon Championships

Mieko Carey holds the third place trophy she won during the 30th Annual Kaike Triathlon Championships in Japan last Sunday.



Joshua Manglona and Mieko Carey at the finish line area after completing the race.



Mieko Carey poses with two mascots in Kaike.



Mieko Carey poses for the camera after finishing the race.



Joshua Manglona is all smiles after completing the race.



Mieko Carey takes a breather from a practice ride before the Kaike



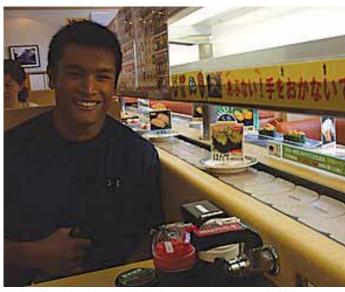
Joshua Manglona and Mieko Carey join friends and hosts for an early dinner after their arrival in Kaike.



Mieko Carey poses for a photo with Ironman world champion Mark



From left, Mieko Carey, Joshua Manglona, and Pacific Development. Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura pose for a group photo.



Joshua Manglona in one of the Japanese restaurants in Kaike.



Mieko Carey in the full marathon run leg of the triathlon race.





Tim ready for new challenge in Micro Games

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im Quan will be on a different playing court when he represents the CNMI in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau next month.

The 22-year-old athlete, who used to compete in tennis tournaments, will be suiting up for the CNMI Men's National Basketball Team that will aim for a better finish in the quadrennial event. The men's nationals missed the playoffs of the 6th Micronesian Games on Saipan in 2006 and finished only fifth.

Quan was also a competitor in the 2006 Micro

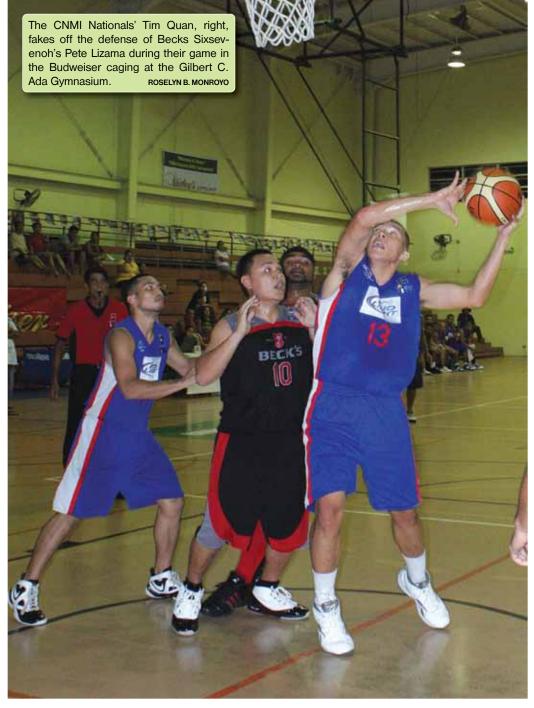


Games, winning a silver medal in the men's singles and men's doubles (with Ji

Hoon Heo) and a gold medal in the team event where he joined forces with CNMI coach Jeff Race and Todd Montgomery.

This year, Quan will have new teammates and he admitted he is still trying to blend in, as he only joined the squad a couple of weeks ago. Quan is based in California and arrived on Saipan in the first week of this month.

"Since I have been back, I have been able to meet the team and coaches, as well as learn our offensive and defensive tactics. My new teammates are full of character and it seems that they have been pushing each other See TIM on Page 26



Manglona needs only 46 seconds to win in Las Vegas

By WALTER SUTHERLAND

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Tinianborn Keli "Rukiz"

Manglona remained undefeated in his mixed martial arts career after knocking out his opponent in MMA Xplosion's Fight Night held last July 17 at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Manglona, who currently trains in Las Vegas with the Wand Fight Team under Wanderlei Silva and Legion BJJ under Cameron Diffley, needed only 46 seconds in the first round to knock out Joey Gue-

Tinian's Keli "Rukiz" Manglona has his right ram raised by the referee after knocking out Joey Guevara in the first round of their middleweight bout in MMA Xplosion's Fight Night held last July 17 at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.



vara. He improved to a 6-0 winloss card.

"Thank you for all the support for believing in me and pushing me. I couldn't have done it without you guys...family, friends and fans," said the 5'11" and 195-lb Manglona via e-mail following his win over Guevarra, who fights out of Academy of Striking and Grappling.

"I felt really good going into this fight, I had a month and a half to prepare and came ready to fight. I am glad that the hard work I put in the gym paid off. I am honored to have represented my fight teams and the Marianas. Now it's time for me to gear up for another war," added the middleweight.

Manglona is 20 years old and has been competing in MMA for three years. His stand-up skills consist of Muay Thai and boxing. He also utilizes Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling on the mat. In addition to Las Vegas, he has also

See MANGLONA on Page 26

Macaranas finishes strong in junior golf championships

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas saved his best for last in the 2010 Callaway Junior World

Golf Championships, hitting an eagle in the final round of the four-day event at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo in San Diego California

last week.

Macaranas, who competed in the boys' 11 to 12 of the world championships, had an eagle on the par-5, 473-yard No. 14 hole to add with his two birdies and eight pars in the third round, giving him a gross score of 7-over 80 in the par-73 course.

Macaranas' final score was his best in three rounds, as he got off to a slow start in

See MACARANAS on Page 26



R.J. Macaranas holds the CNMI flag during the opening ceremony for the 2010 Callaway Junior World Golf Championships at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo in San Diego, California

Talavera clinches PBA Bowler of the Year title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

Robert Talavera took the Philippine Bowling Association-Bud-

weiser Bowler of the Year crown that eluded him in the last two years after ruling the season-ending roll-off last Saturday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera prevailed in the five-man stepladder finals, clinching this year's title after beating Raul Dumapit in a best-of-two games finale. Talavera lost Game 1, 266-278, but foiled Dumapit's bid for an upset when the former knocked down 170

See TALAVERA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Robert Talavera shows his trophy and cash prize after winning the 2010 Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Bowler of the Year crown last week at the Saipan Bowling Center.